



SMITH RIVER STATE PARK AND RIVER CORRIDOR ANNUAL REPORT 2007



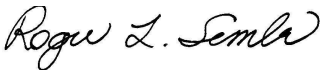
*Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks*



A comprehensive summary of management activities, visitor use statistics, and social and resource conditions on the Smith River corridor during the 2007 field season

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SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

The Parks Division of Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) manages recreational floating along a 59-mile segment of the Smith River from Camp Baker to Eden Bridge as part of Smith River State Park and River Corridor. The Smith River is the only river in Montana where a permit is required for both public and commercial use. Management of the river corridor is conducted through an interagency partnership between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and the United State Forest Service (USFS). Approximately 80% of the land along the river corridor is in private ownership, with the other 20% publicly owned.

The Smith River float is extremely popular during a short season, with an average of 3,814 people floating the river per year. The Smith River is unique in that it has only one public put-in and one public take-out for the entire 59-mile segment of river. The river is noted for its spectacular scenery and blue-ribbon trout fishery.

This report is compiled from data gathered during the 2007 float season (April through October 2007) for Smith River State Park & River Corridor. Statistical and observational information was gathered from state park staff and recreational floaters.

SECTION 2 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A record-number 5,012 private launch applications were received for the 2007 float season, a 9.5% increase from the applications received in 2006. A total of 507 private groups floated the Smith River, involving 3,567 individual floaters, compared to the 15-year average of private use of 525 groups, with 3,165 people.

The 10 authorized commercial outfitters conducted a total of 47 trips involving 617 floaters (including both clients and guides), as compared to the 15-year average of outfitted use of 49 groups per year with 567 people.

Of particular importance is the fact that two of the three Management Plan indicator standards were out of compliance in 2007. The indicators out of compliance included: 1) the number of floaters in the canyon at one time and 2) the average group size.

The 2007 float season was the 4th highest use season on record, with a total of 4,329 floaters. Use levels were on pace to be a record year until late June - early July, when the river flow dropped very quickly, approximately 2 ½ weeks earlier than normal.

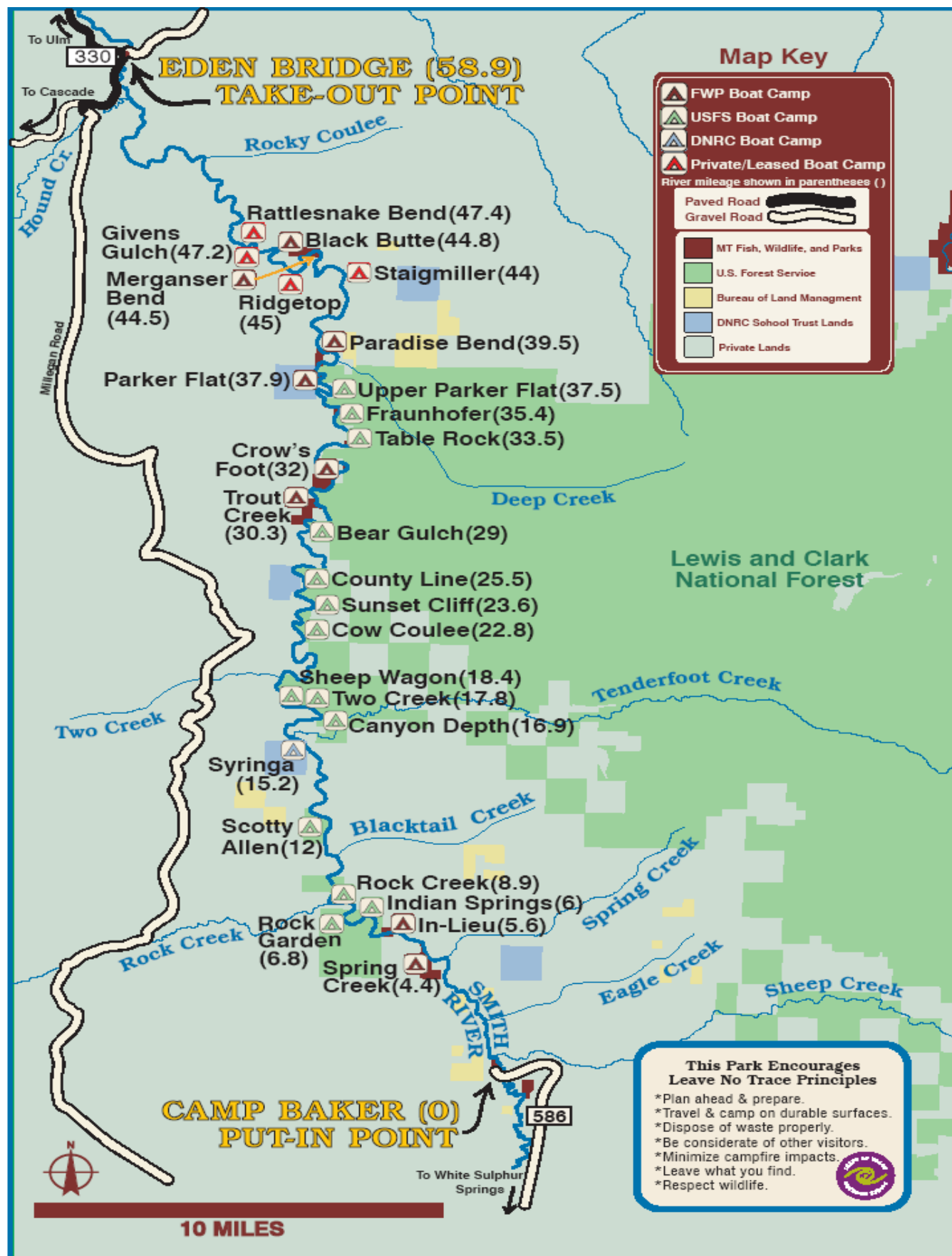
For the 3rd year in a row, the months of April and May experienced a record number of floaters. April saw a total of 482 floaters, up from 427 floaters in 2006. May saw a total of 1683 floaters, up from 1430 floaters in 2006. Floater use during the spring shoulder-season of April and early May is experiencing an upward trend in use.

Visitor use for the month of June was the 2nd highest on record with a total of 2014 floaters. In late June and early July, river flows dropped below 150 cfs and by July 11, recorded flows were less than 100 cfs. Consequently, most permit holders cancelled their launch and July experienced the 2nd lowest use on record with only 139 floaters.

The average number of floaters per group (7.39) was the highest on record. The average number of floaters per group has continued to increase, showing an upward trend over the past 15 seasons.

Based on the visitor floater log feedback, visitor satisfaction and enjoyment of the recreational resources and management of the river corridor continued to be very positive. These are strong indications that the Smith River continues to offer one of Montana's premier recreational opportunities.

SECTION 3 – SMITH RIVER AREA MAP



SECTION 4 - MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Administration

The Parks Division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks administers Smith River State Park & River Corridor based out of Region 4 Headquarters in Great Falls, Montana. Cooperative management support is also provided by the U.S. Forest Service out of the White Sulphur Springs and Belt Creek Ranger Districts of the Lewis & Clark National Forest.

Administrative duties in the FWP office include planning and preparation for the coming season, updating printed and website information, purchasing supplies, hiring employees, meeting with the USFS and commercial guide/outfitters, and preparing for the lottery drawing for the private Smith River float permits. The majority of the office time spent throughout the float season involves answering public inquiries via the telephone.

Duties in the field include routine maintenance of the recreational facilities along the river corridor from Camp Baker (put-in) to Eden Bridge (take-out), including the 52 boat camps along the river. Visitor outreach and education, with an emphasis on public safety, resource protection and Leave No Trace ethics are also typical duties. River Rangers conduct weekly float patrols on the Smith River throughout the float season.

The Smith River rangers spend several hours each day at Camp Baker answering questions, conducting pre-launch informative talks, registering floaters, collecting floater fees and recording daily use statistics, which are used to track recreational float use trends on the river.

Staffing

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks R-4 employees involved with the 2007 Smith River program included:

- Colin Maas – Park Management Specialist
- Kirk Perszyk – Seasonal River Ranger
- Bob Seibert – Seasonal River Ranger
- Carla Corbally – Smith River Reservation Clerk
- Chris Dantic – Interpretive Specialist
- Roger Semler – Region 4 Parks Manager

Numerous other FWP employees from R-4 and Helena Headquarters office played a role in a team effort to make the Smith River program work successfully.

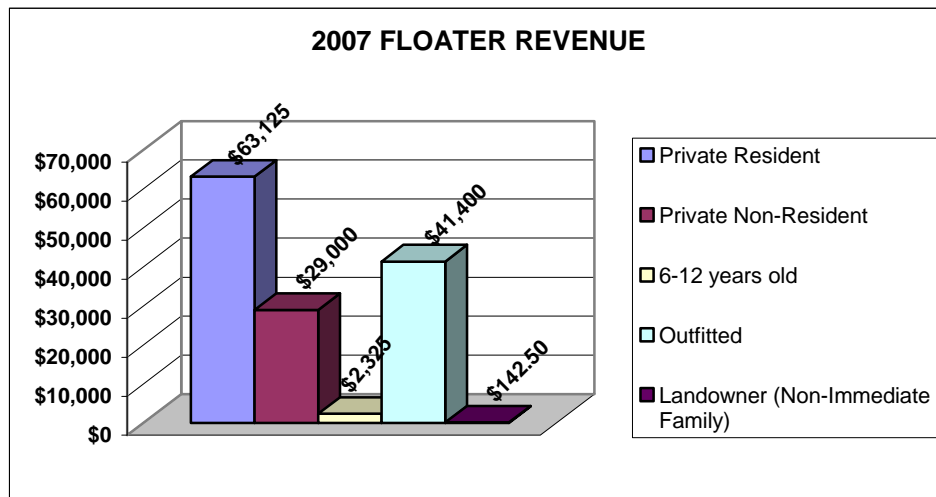
On April 02, 2007, Bob Seibert was hired as a seasonal River Ranger. Kirk Perszyk returned for his 4th season as a River Ranger.

Fee Revenue

The following floater fees were approved for the 2006-07 season (April 01 – October 31) through the Parks Biennial Fee Rule:

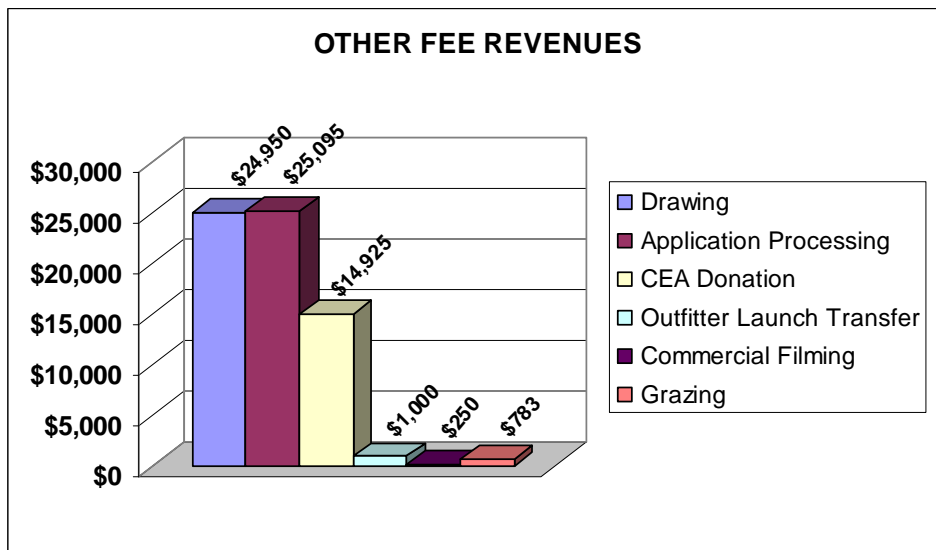
- Permit drawing fee (residents and non-residents, non-refundable) = **\$5.00**
- Private launch pre-registration fee (resident application) = **\$25.00**
- Private launch pre-registration fee (non-resident application) = **\$50.00**
- Montana Resident Floaters Age 13+, Outfitter Staff (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$25.00**
- Non-Montana Resident Floaters Age 13+ (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$50.00**
- Children Ages 6-12 (Resident or Non-resident) (4/1 – 10/31) = **\$15.00**
- Landowner Non-Immediate Family = **\$7.50**
- Outfitted Client Floater = **\$100.00**
- Outfitted Pre-Launch Fee = **\$200.00**
- Outfitted Transfer Fee = **\$250.00**

Total “floater fee” revenue collected in 2007 was \$135,992.50.



GRAPH 1: FLOATER FEES COLLECTED IN 2007

Total “other fee” revenue collected in 2007 was \$67,003.



GRAPH 2: OTHER FEES COLLECTED IN 2007

Corridor Enhancement Account

The Smith River Corridor Enhancement Account (CEA) was established by the FWP Commission to “better manage and protect the river corridor.” Fifty dollars from each outfitted client fee and 5% of all other fees collected are put into the CEA. The CEA can be used only for the Smith River Corridor, including the purchase of lands and easements. During the 2007 season, \$37,739 was added to the CEA account. As of November 26, 2007, the balance of the CEA was \$346,490.

Administrative Floats

A total of 13 administrative river patrol floats were conducted during the 2007 season for the purpose of managing the Smith River. The primary focus of these trips was visitor education and outreach, boat camp maintenance, resource protection, law enforcement, landowner contacts, noxious weed control and public safety.

During routine river patrols, rangers visited with numerous recreational floaters and landowners throughout the 59-mile river corridor. Campsites were checked for litter and resource damage, signs were repaired or replaced, fire grates were cleaned out, and pit latrines were dug and maintained. Litter was packed out, including metal and glass thrown into the fire rings, along with partially burned garbage. Private property was checked for signage, trespass and other impacts.

Field personnel continue to provide an important means for FWP and USFS to observe and address visitor use and resource protection concerns and issues.

Volunteer Activity

In 2007, 34 citizen volunteers contributed approximately 1,568 hours (equivalent to .75 FTE) to the Smith River program. Volunteer hosts at the Eden Bridge take-out provided important maintenance and visitor services for floaters, as well as collecting post-trip floater logs. They also collected and separated approximately 834 pounds of aluminum cans for recycling. The revenue earned from this recycling effort totaled \$415.25 and was donated to Project Hope and Camp Make-A-Dream. Other volunteers also performed additional duties including, shuttling FWP vehicles, accompanying River Rangers during river patrols and performing a five-day noxious weed float, pulling Hounds Tongue in the boat camps.

Volunteers add immeasurably to the Smith River program. For example, vandalism was greatly reduced at the Eden Bridge take-out when a volunteer host was present. The interaction between volunteers and FWP staff helps gain insight into public opinion and feedback on river resource and social conditions.

Education and Outreach

The river rangers continued to conduct pre-float orientation talks at the Camp Baker put-in to educate and inform floaters about river safety, as well as the rules and regulations for floating the Smith River. Noxious weed control is also discussed in an effort to make the public aware of the problems with noxious weed infestations. Rangers emphasized Leave No Trace ethics and their importance in minimizing social and resource impacts in the river corridor.

In late 2005, FWP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meagher and Cascade County Weed Districts, USDA Forest Service and the Smith River Habitat Project Inc. for cooperative management of noxious weeds throughout the Smith River Corridor. During the 2006 season, FWP installed a noxious weed information board



Pre-float orientation talk.

at Camp Baker posting details about the cooperative weed treatment program in place within the Smith River corridor. In 2007, a newly updated treatment area map was posted on the information board.

The Smith River website and mail-out floater information packet were updated and improved to address frequently asked questions, special resource protection concerns, and recommendations to reduce group size to help FWP comply with the Smith River Management Plan standards.

Projects Completed

The following projects were accomplished in late 2006 through the end of 2007:

Camp Baker

- New Ranger housing constructed.
- New Ranger Station (office) constructed. Interior furnishings ongoing.
- Former Ranger cabin and office converted into new tool shed and equipment storage (ongoing).
- New firewood shed constructed.
- Cattle guard on access road re-dug and wings replaced.
- Concrete ADA access pad installed in front of latrine.
- Latrine windscreens constructed.
- Park road regaveled and reshaped.
- Security gate for Ranger housing installed.

River Corridor

- Replaced 6 boat camp signs, 12 sign posts, 22 tie-off posts and 1 fire ring, due to ice flow damage.
- Removed experimental dehydrating toilet at Crows Foot boat camp due to ineffectiveness.
- Installed float gate at river mile 40.
- Volunteer group from Malmstrom Air Force Base performed 2nd annual Hounds Tongue weed-pull float.

Eden Bridge

- Increased amperage on electrical hook-up pedestal utilized by volunteer hosts.



**NEW RANGER STATION OFFICE, LATRINE
WINDSCREENS AND CONCRETE ADA PAD**



REPLACING ICE-DAMAGED BOAT CAMP SIGN

Management Actions

The Smith River program implemented the following management actions and recommendations in 2007:

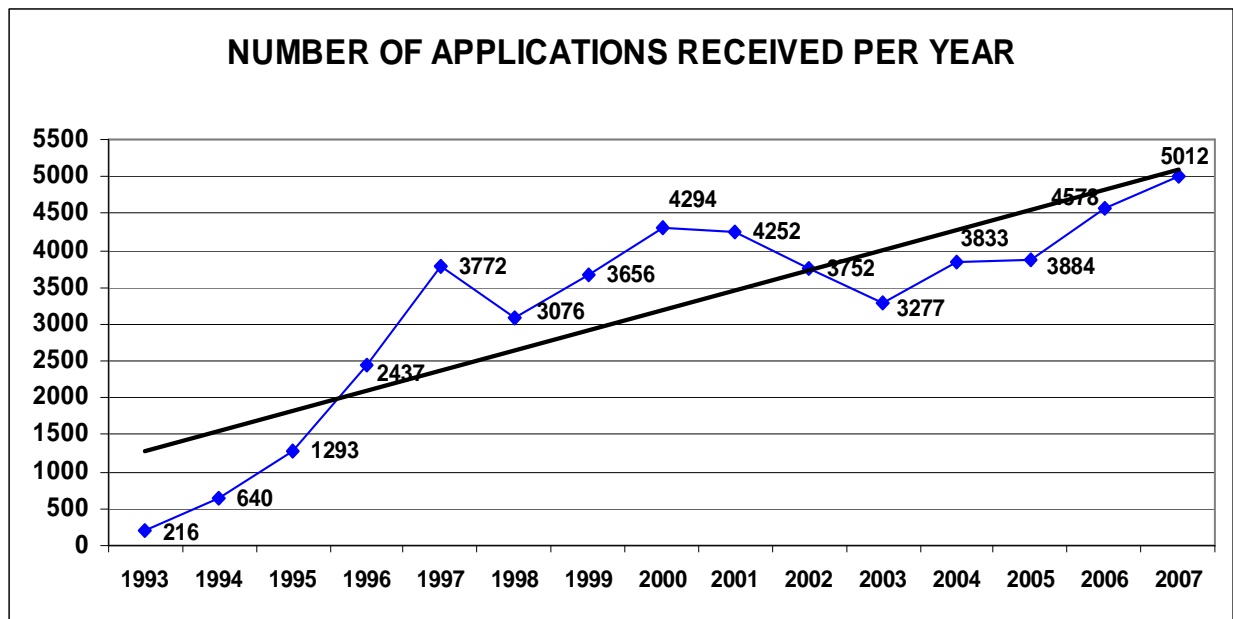
- FWP initiated a management plan update process. The current management plan was adopted in 1996. A citizen's advisory committee was formed to assist with this process. The first planning meeting was conducted in June 2007 with several additional monthly meetings scheduled. It's anticipated that the committee will complete its work in the Spring of 2008. FWP will then circulate a draft management plan for public review and comment and then complete a final management plan in the Fall of 2008. Any changes initiated by the new plan would be implemented beginning in 2009.
- FWP updated the Smith River Special Use Area Rule (January 2007). In accordance with the Smith River Management Act, Section 23-2-408, MCA, authorizes the FWP Commission to provide for the administration of the Smith River waterway. The Special Use Area Rule contains the administrative rules specific to managing recreational use on the Smith River.
- FWP adopted new rules governing commercial use (December 2006) on all FWP administered lands including State Parks, Fishing Access Sites and Wildlife Management Areas. In accordance with the new commercial use rules, an updated Restricted Use Permit was issued to outfitters authorized to conduct commercial use on the Smith River.
- FWP was granted legislative authority to add .35 FTE for a 3rd seasonal river ranger position. This 3rd river ranger position will be hired in the spring of 2008.
- FWP continued the implementation of a 2004 policy for permit cancellations during the May 25th through July 10th peak-use period to address the average group size indicator exceeding the established Management Plan standard. All launch permits voluntarily canceled and reallocated were limited to a maximum group size of eight individuals during this high-use period.
- FWP continued measures to help reduce the number of Department staff on the river. FWP did not conduct any administrative floats during the May 25th – July 10th period, except for the scheduled River Ranger/enforcement patrols and trips related to noxious weed control.
- FWP continued to recommend that float groups limit their group size to eight people or less and trip duration to no more than four days and three nights in order to help compliance with the Smith River Management Plan standards for maximum number of people in the corridor at one time and average group size per month.
- FWP continued to recommend that floaters leave dogs at home, unless visitors fully intend to comply with the leash regulation. Dogs brought along on recreational floats have become an increasing source of complaints from floaters, as well as landowners along the river. Again in 2007, as in years past, FWP received complaints (verbal and written) related to dog problems at Camp Baker, the boat camps, and Eden Bridge. Incidents over the years have included visitor injuries from dog bites, dogs getting into food in adjacent camps, dog waste left behind, digging of holes, chasing of livestock and wildlife and associated trespassing onto private property. Floaters were again advised that citations will be issued for all dogs not kept on leash and under control at all times during the 2007 float season.
- FWP issued a fishing closure on July 12, 2007, restricting fishing between the hours of 2:00 pm and midnight, due to high water temperatures and the associated stress to fish. The restriction was rescinded on 8/28/07.

SECTION 5 - VISITOR USE STATISTICS

Private Launch Applications

A total of 5,012 private launch applications were received for the 2007 float season. This was an all-time high, surpassing the previous high of 4,578 applications in 2006, and was a 9.5% increase.

The private application forms were made available electronically on the FWP web page during the 2007 application period. The public was able to apply on-line or print the application, fill it out and mail it in. The applications were also made available at all FWP Regional offices. Applications were accepted from Jan. 2, 2007 through Feb. 15, 2007. A trip-planning information sheet was provided with the application with answers to frequently asked questions regarding recommended stream flows for floating, camping facilities, and river regulations.



GRAPH 3: NUMBER OF APPLICANTS PER YEAR

First-Time Floaters: Private Permits

In 2007, “first-time” private permit holders were tracked. The results found that of the 507 private group permit holders that floated the Smith River in 2007, 79 (16%) were first-time floaters.

Floater Registration

FWP Commission rules (Smith River Special Use Area Rule) require mandatory registration for all floaters on the Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge from April 01 to October 31. This includes initially applying for a private launch date and then completing the registration procedures on the day of departure at Camp Baker.

Because of high demand for floating the Smith River and limitations on the number of launches allowed, a drawing is held for the initial allocation of all private float launch dates. The 2007 season marked the 15TH year of this process. In 2007, the number of applications for the drawing increased, surpassing the previous high in 2006. 844 private launch permits were allocated via the 2007 drawing. The overall success rate for obtaining a permit through the lottery was approximately 17%.

All applications received were entered into a computer database. Immediately after the drawing, floater's packets with permits were sent to successful applicants. Refunds were issued to those who were unsuccessful and who elected not to donate their permit application fee to the CEA.

After the initial drawing, remaining launch dates were made available to the public. The computer-based reservation system allows FWP to track cancellations and open launch dates, which are then made available via the Smith River reservation phone line. The computer database continues to be refined and serves both the public and FWP very well.

Self-registration by floaters is required in the event river rangers are not present at Camp Baker. The instructions and related materials for self-registration and campsite declaration are contained within packets found inside a self-registration box, which is mounted on the kiosk at Camp Baker. Floaters are left to the honor system to fill out the registration/ permit and follow all of the instructions to complete the process. All watercraft utilized by floaters are required to display a boat tag while on the river. Different colored tags were used to distinguish private, outfitted and landowner groups.

During the 2007 float season, 35 groups were "no-shows." Many of these were during the late or early part of the season. In accordance with FWP Commission rules, permit holders failing to properly cancel their reservation will not be able to apply for the 2008 drawing. There were a total of 472 permits that were cancelled. All of these permits were made available for pick-up, with the exception of the first five cancellations during any given week from June 10 to July 10. The total number of cancelled permits includes three different types: 1) Cancelled. 2) Cancelled/Combined: consolidating a permit with another permit holder in order to float with them. 3) Cancelled/Changed Date: canceling an original launch date while moving into another launch date.

Floater Logs

The floater log is an information card that floaters voluntarily fill out and return at the conclusion of their trip. Floaters were asked to do one of the following with their completed floater log: 1) Give their completed floater log to the FWP volunteers at Eden Bridge. 2) Deposit their logs in the receptacle at Eden Bridge, or 3) Mail them to the Great Falls FWP office if no one was present at Eden Bridge to collect them. In addition to general data collection, many personal comments relating to a memorable experience or observations were noted. Of 554 private and outfitted groups that floated, 311 (56%) returned a floater log.

In 2007, the floater log "questioning" was modified in an attempt to gather more useful feedback from floaters.

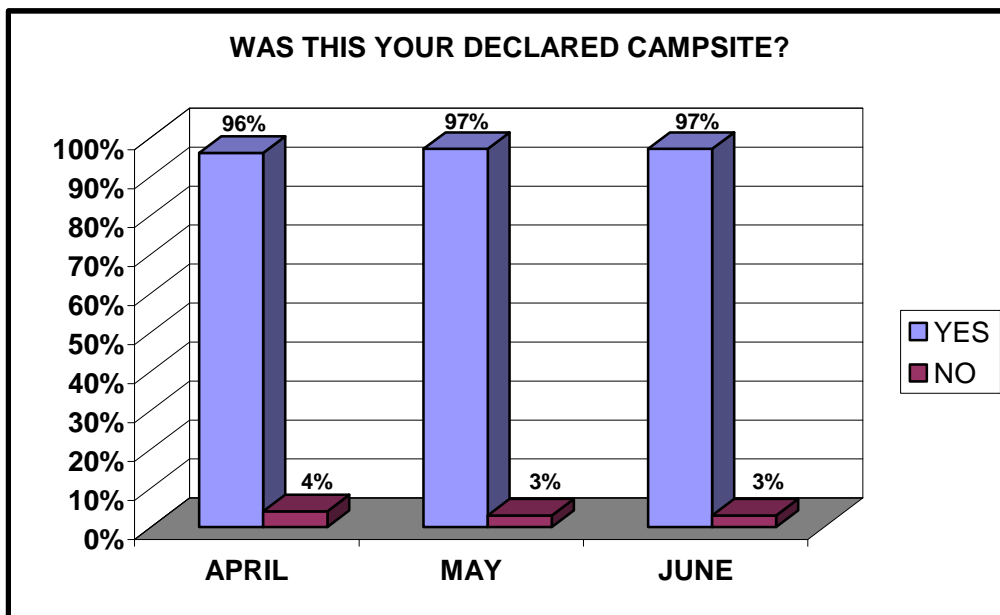
Floater Log Comment Summary

The floater's log comment card is a useful tool to receive instant feedback from recreational users of the Smith River. A complete list of all the floater log comments is available on the FWP Smith River website fwp.state.mt.gov, or call 406-454-5857 to receive a copy. The comments from the 311 floater logs are summarized on pages 13-22. **NOTE:** Due to low floater use, insufficient data was available for the month of July. Responses to fishing-related questions are not included.

2007 FLOATER LOG COMMENT SUMMARY

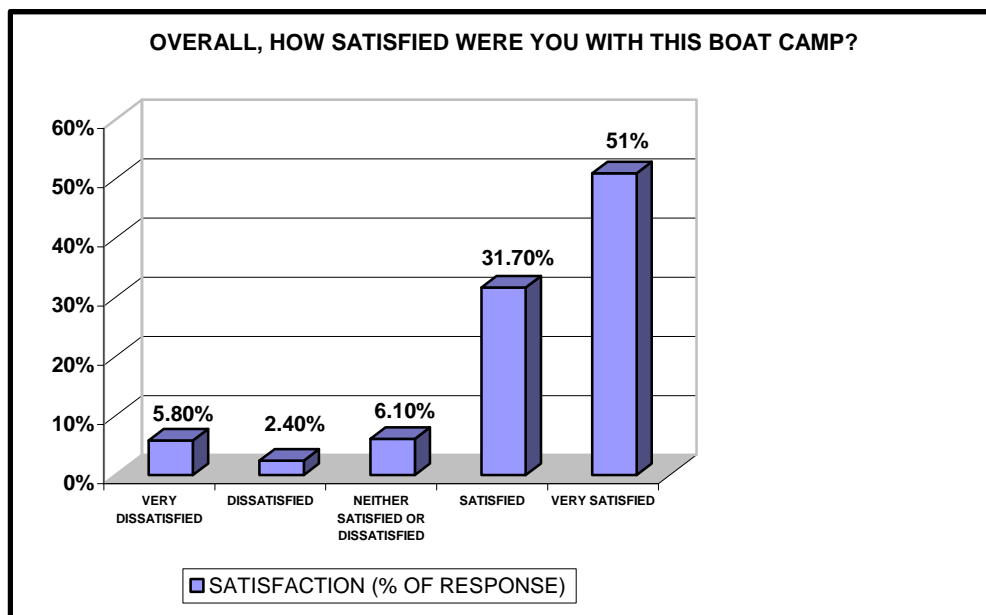
CAMPSITE QUESTIONS:

Question: Was this your declared boat camp?



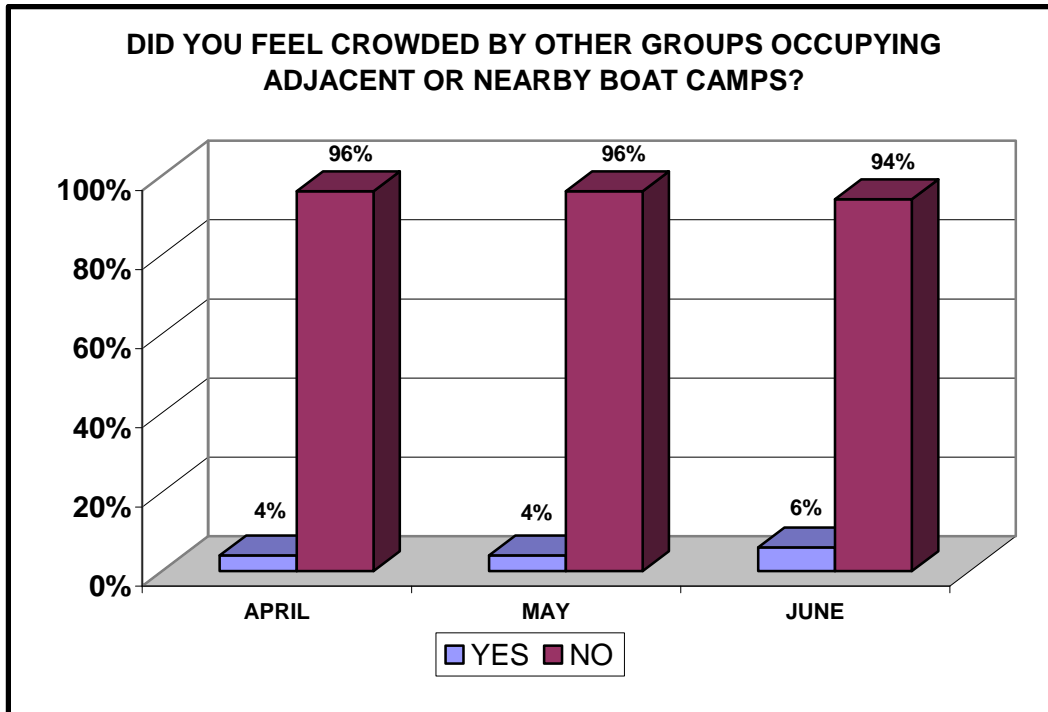
GRAPH 4: FLOATER BOAT CAMP DECLARATION

Question: Overall, how satisfied were you with this boat camp?



GRAPH 5: BOAT CAMP SATISFACTION

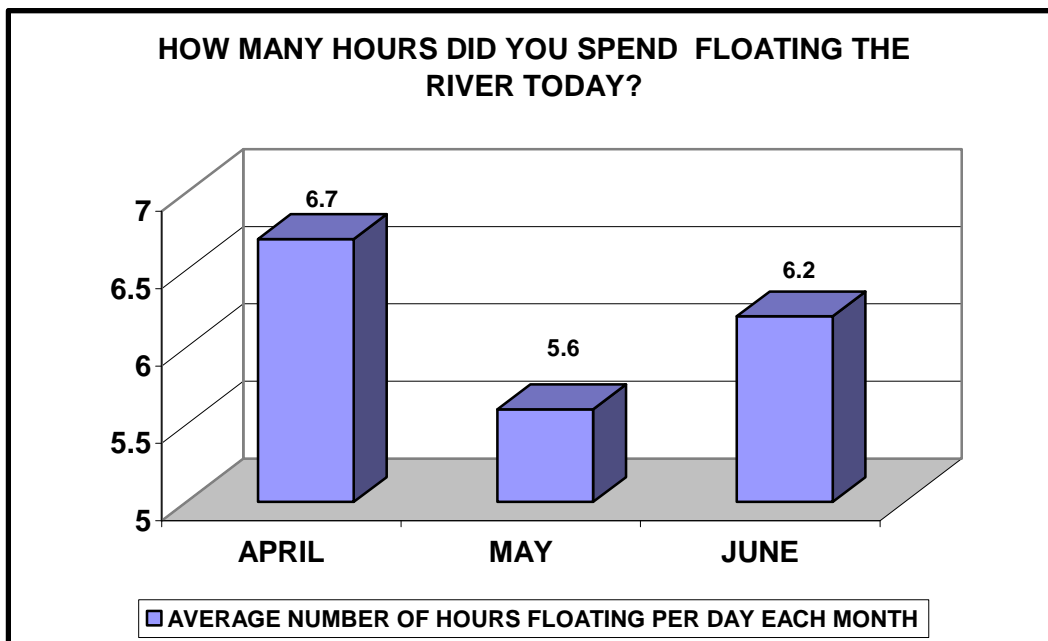
Question: Did you feel crowded by other groups occupying adjacent or nearby boat camps?



GRAPH 6: PERCEPTION OF CROWDING BY ADJACENT BOAT CAMPS

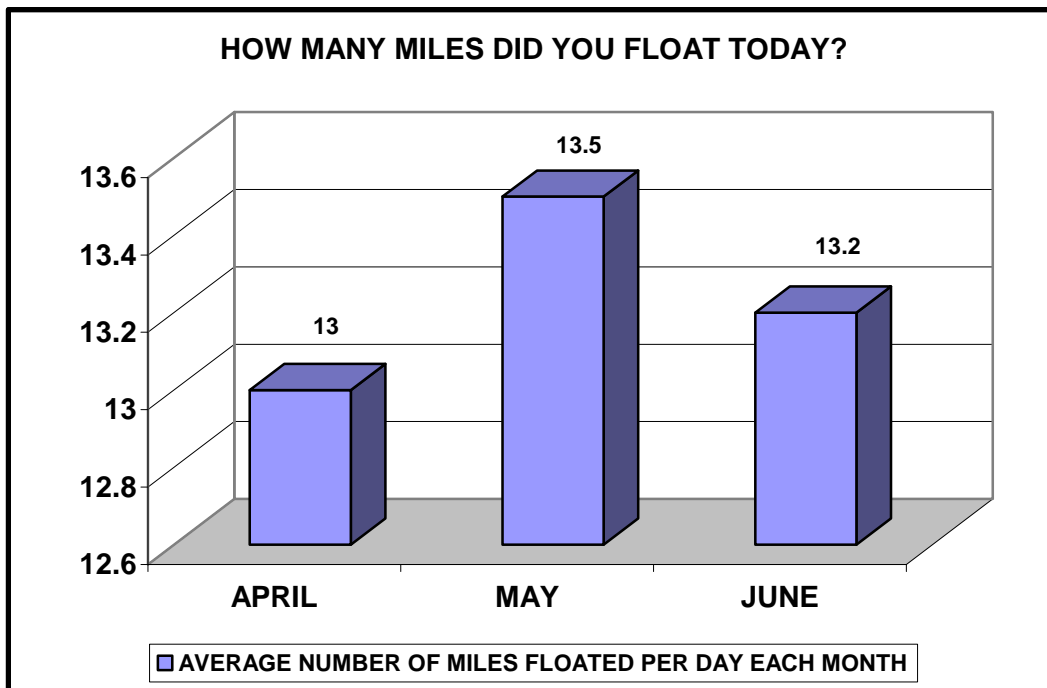
FLOATING QUESTIONS

Question: How many **hours** did you spend floating the river today?



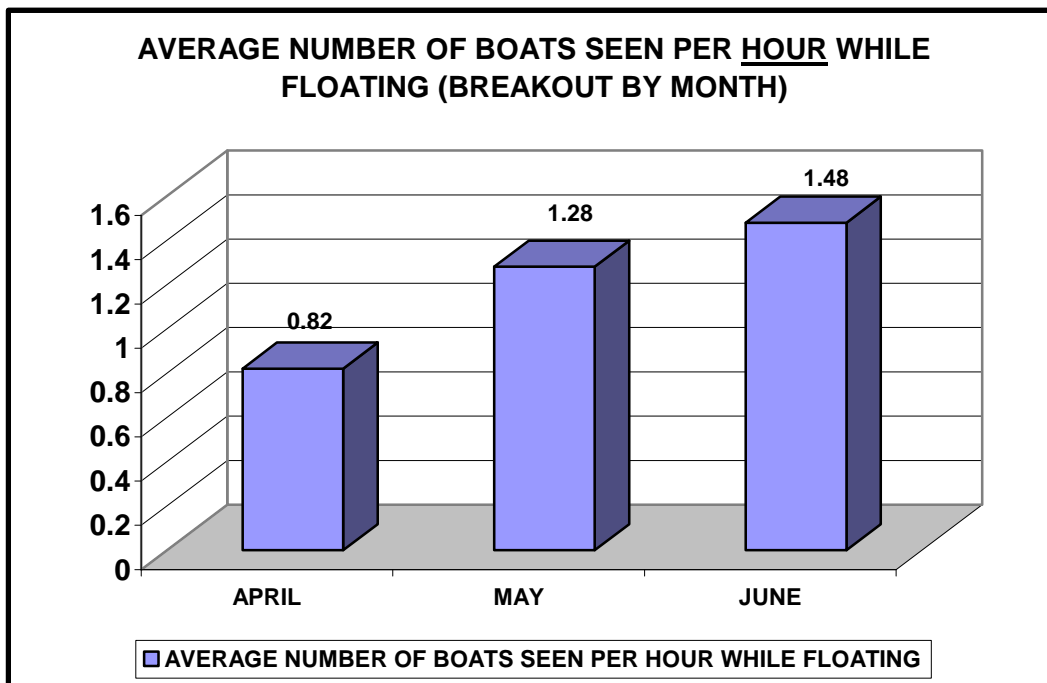
GRAPH 7: FLOATER HOURS ON THE RIVER PER DAY

Question: How many **miles** did you float today?

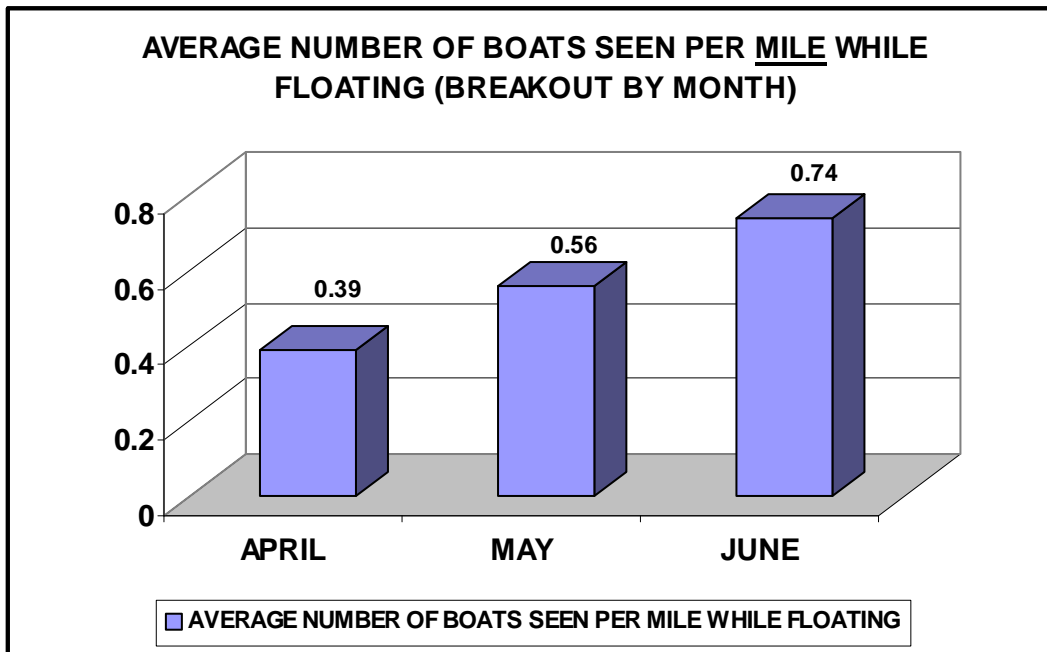


GRAPH 8: FLOATER DAILY MILES

Question: How many other **boats** did you observe while floating the river today (excluding your group)?

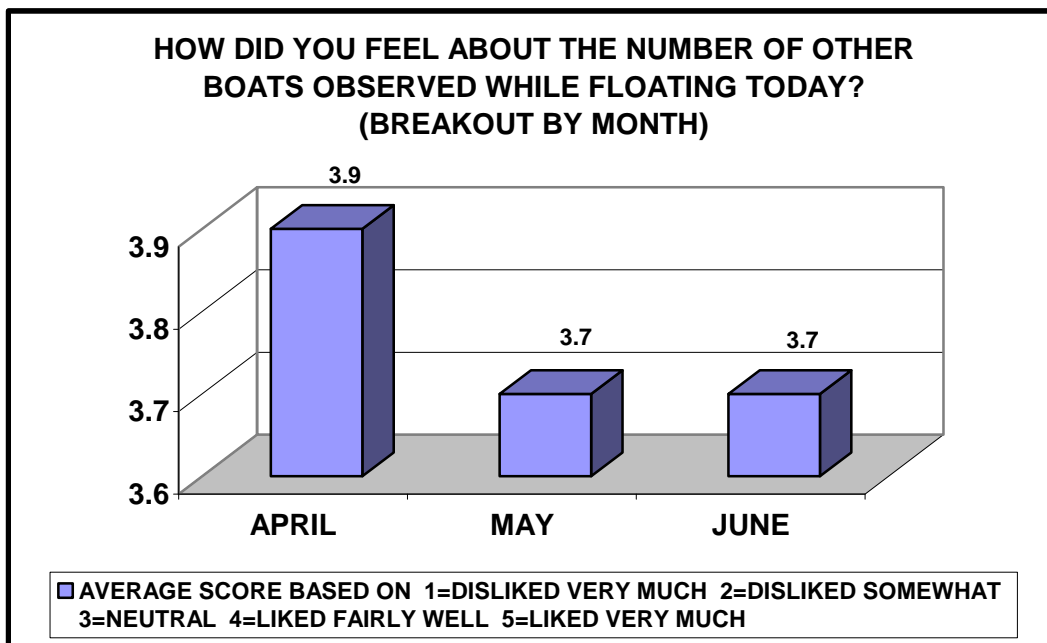


GRAPH 9: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER HOUR

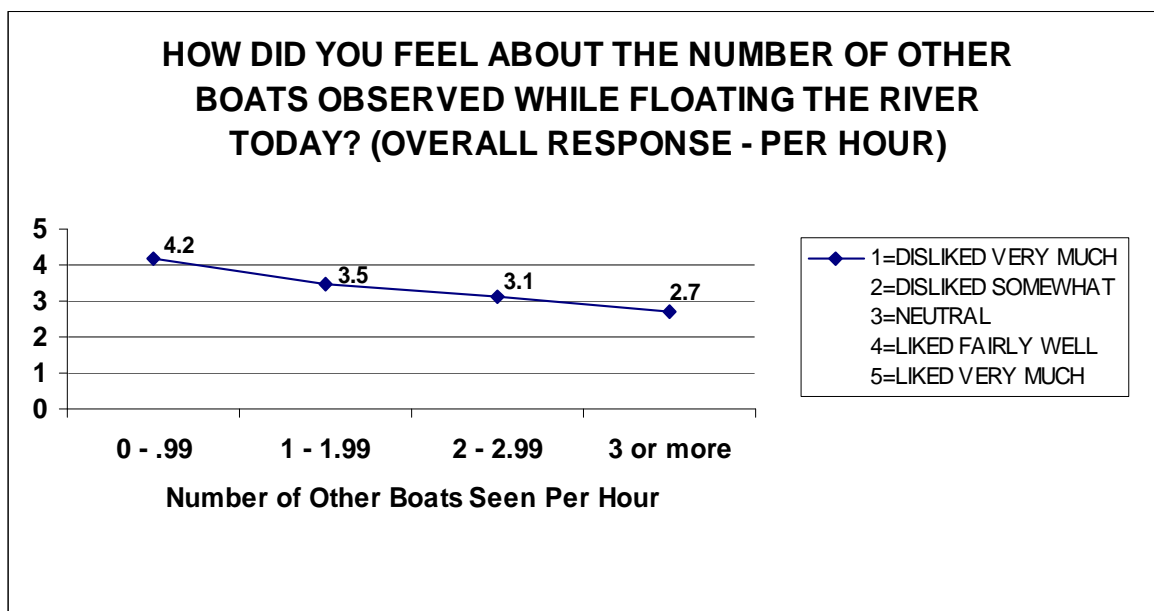


GRAPH 10: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER MILE

Question: How did you **feel** about the number of other boats observed while floating the river today?



GRAPH 11: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER DAY



GRAPH 12: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF NUMBER OF BOATS SEEN PER DAY – OVERALL RESPONSE PER HOUR

Question # 1: If you DID NOT stay at a declared campsite at any time during your float trip, why not?

Question # 1 - Content Analysis:

A total of 32 parties recorded one or more responses to this question on the 2007 Floater Logs. The stated reasons or rationale (# of comments noted in parenthesis) for deviating from declared campsites included:

- Weather-induced changes in itinerary (8)
- Double-booked campsites (3)
- Displaced by another group (5)
- Social conflict with group in adjacent camp (1)
- Stayed at friends' camp (1)
- Disliked campsite conditions, facilities or setting (1)
- Shortened float, floated faster than expected, exited river early (6)
- Confused about name or location of declared campsite (1)
- Late start on river (1)
- Fatigue and/or Illness (1)
- Undeclared campsite was empty, so it was utilized (2)
- Accidentally passed campsite (4)
- River too high or too fast (1)
- Mistake declaring boat camp during self-registration (1)

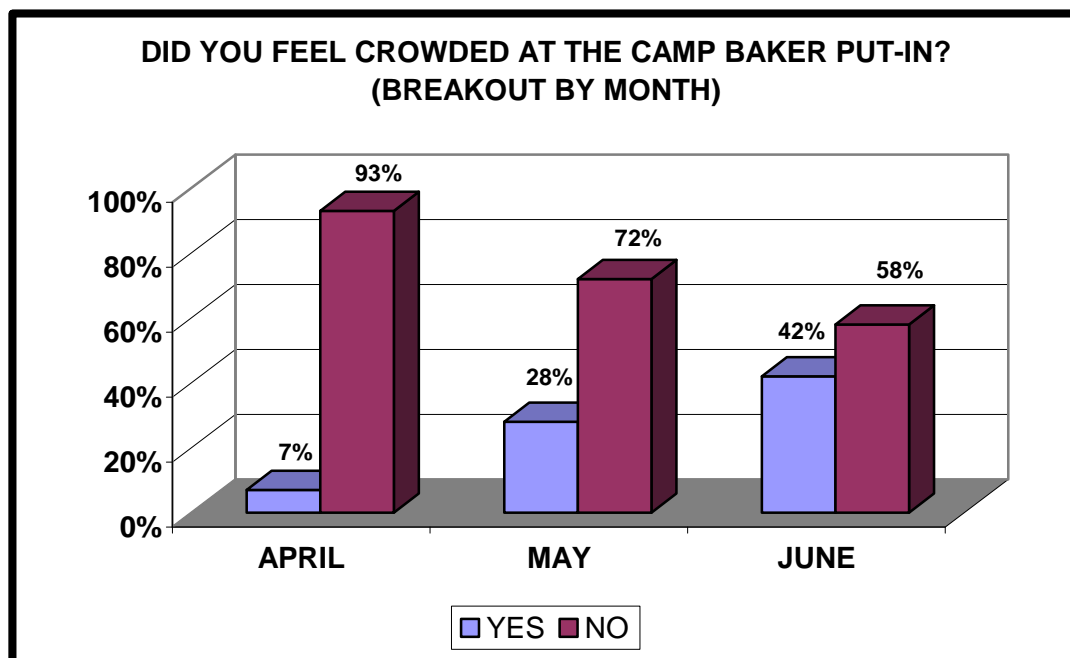
Question #2: If you were not satisfied with a boat camp at any time during your float trip, please tell us why you were dissatisfied.

Question # 2 - Content Analysis:

A total of 46 parties recorded one or more responses to this question on the 2007 Floater Logs. The stated reasons or rationale (# of comments noted in parenthesis) for being dissatisfied with a boat camp included:

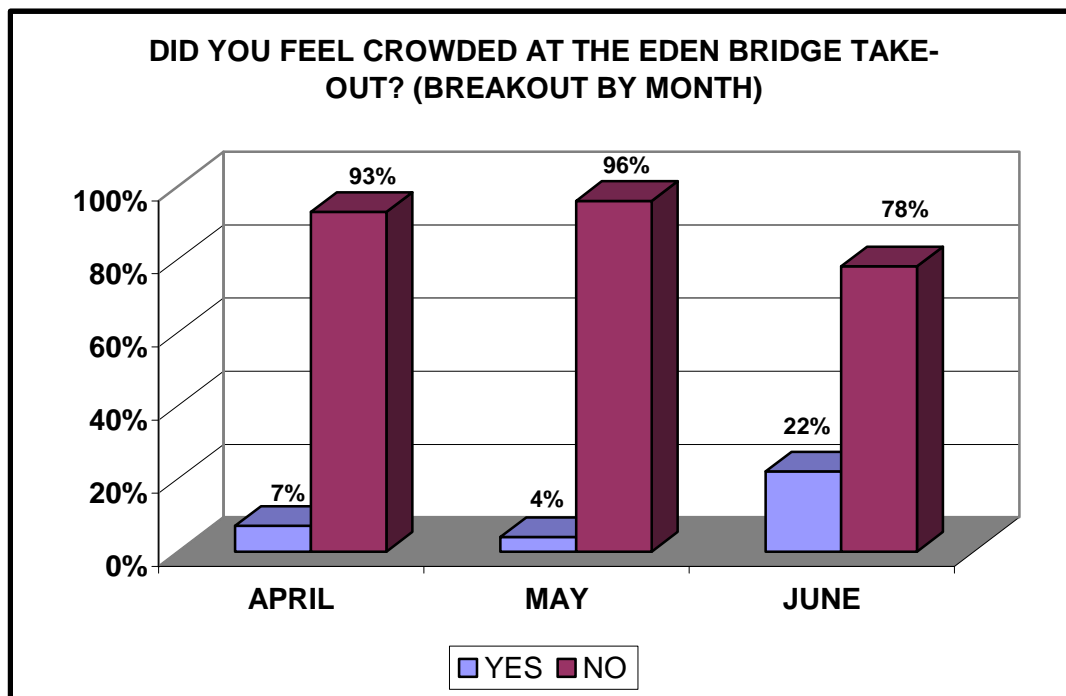
- Current too fast at landing (2)
- Boat Camp sign not readily visible from river (1)
- Social conflict with group in adjacent camp (4)
- Social conflict with adjacent private property owner [vehicles, noise, lights] (4)
- Boat Camp location too far from landing (1)
- Boat camp too small (5)
- Adjacent boat camp too close (9)
- Limited trees for shading or cover (7)
- Landing too steep (3)
- Landing too muddy (3)
- Limited flat ground for tent sites (2)
- Core camping area muddy when wet (1)
- Latrine site too far and/or steep (4)
- Latrine lacked privacy (2)
- Latrine trail and site overgrown with vegetation (1)
- Nuisance pet (dog) at adjacent camp (2)
- Smelled of dead animal carcass (1)
- Poison Ivy at landing and trail to camp (1)
- Boat Camp had just been sprayed for noxious weeds (1)

Question #4: Did you feel crowded at the put-in? Yes or No



GRAPH 12: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF FEELING CROWDED AT CAMP BAKER PUT-IN

Question #5: Did you feel crowded at the take-out? Yes or No



GRAPH 13: FLOATER PERCEPTION OF FEELING CROWDED AT EDEN BRIDGE TAKE-OUT

Question # 6: Did you witness any violations during your float trip (park or fishing regulations, other)? If so, what and where? Please note the boat tag numbers if possible.

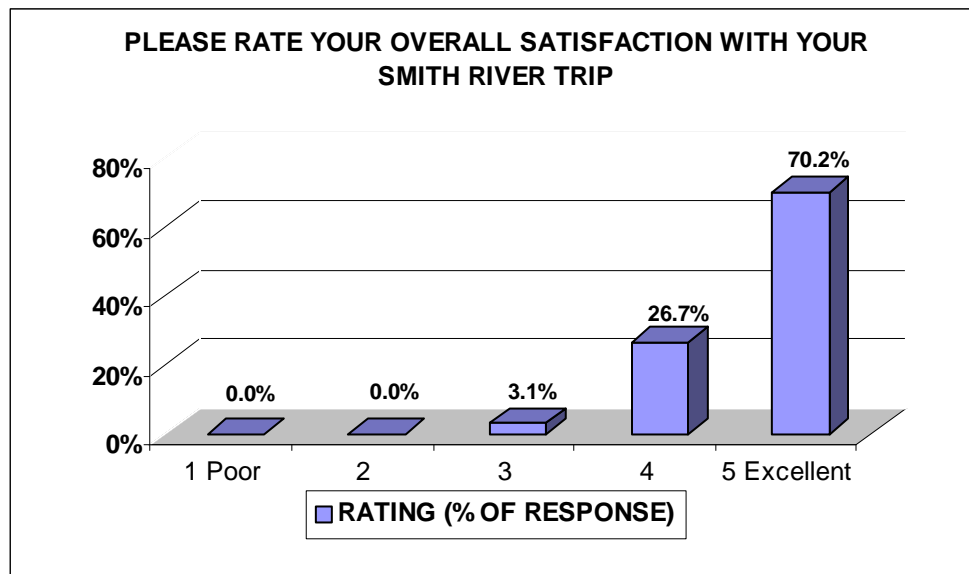
Question # 6 - Content Analysis:

A total of 44 parties recorded one or more responses (number of comments are in parenthesis) to this question on the 2007 Floater Logs. Note: Any violations that were documented by floaters in question 8 (general comments) is also included here. The stated observations of non-compliance are summarized as follows:

- Litter in boat camp (10)
- Litter in fire ring (7)
- Litter in or along river (1)
- Dog off-leash (4)
- Dog waste (1)
- Campfire unattended – not dead out (7)
- Campfire out of designated grates (2)
- Improper disposal of human waste (2)
- Disorderly Conduct – Public Intoxication (1)
- Disorderly Conduct – Quiet hours violation (2)
- Camping – Greater than 15 people occupying one boat camp (2)
- Camping – Group not in correct boat camp (3)
- Property Disturbance – Tree cutting (3)
- Property Disturbance – Fire ring moved (3)
- Firearms – Discharging in boat camp (2)
- No boat tags (1)

- Fishing Violation – Wasting harvested fish (1)
- Fishing Violation – Method of harvest (1)
- PFD (life jacket) Violation – Children under 12 years (1)

Question # 7: Please rate your overall satisfaction with your Smith River trip.



GRAPH 14: FLOATER OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH SMITH RIVER TRIP

Question # 8: Any other comments you have about your Smith River Trip or about the river in general are more than welcome.

Question # 8 - Content Analysis:

A total of 152 parties recorded one or more responses (number of comments are in parenthesis) to this question on the 2007 Floater Logs. The content of the comments are analyzed as follows:

General Response

- Overall positive and/or satisfied with their river float experience (62)
- Complimentary or positive comments regarding FWP's Smith River management efforts/practices (21)
- Negative comments regarding FWP's Smith River management efforts/practices (1)
- Provided recommendations for changes in FWP management practices (16)
- Positive comments regarding FWP River Rangers or Staff (17)
- Negative comments regarding FWP River Rangers or staff (0)
- Positive comments regarding launch and campsite conditions (15)
- Negative comments regarding launch or campsite conditions (4)
- Comments regarding river conditions and good fishing (2)
- Comments regarding river conditions and poor fishing (3)
- Comments or complaints regarding private property or landowners (3)

Specific Complaints:

- Visitor behavior & user conflicts (4)
- Guide/Outfitter behavior/attitude (3)
- Too many outfitters (3)
- Group size too large (7)
- Camps too close together (2)
- Crowding - too many boats on river (3)
- Human waste in campsite (2)
- Dogs off leash (4)
- Dog waste in campsite (1)
- Dog urinated on tent (1)
- Trees/snags in river (1)
- Noxious weed infestations (5)
- Private Property – development, visual, noise, trucks (3)
- Boat camp sign down (3)
- Latrine trail too steep (1)
- Latrine lid and/or seat missing (1)
- Double-booked in campsite (4)
- Poison Ivy should be exterminated (1)
- Ant hills at Lower Rock Garden (1)
- Dead fish in river (1)

Specific Recommendations:

Permits, Allocation, Fees

- Allocate campsites with a lottery drawing at Camp Baker, versus first-come, first-served (2)
- Reduce maximum group size (7)
- Reduce number of launches per day (3)
- Reduce amount of commercial use (3)
- Increase drawing odds for Montana residents (1)

Administrative Rules

- Prohibit dogs on river (2)
- Continue to allow dogs on river (1)

Education and Outreach

- Develop a topographic map (2)
- Additional noxious weed information needed (1)
- Inform floaters that dried Hounds Tongue makes good fire kindling (1)
- Advise floaters of camps with the greatest cover and protection (1)
- Inform floaters to arrange shuttles prior to launch date (1)
- Inform floaters to pour water into latrines (1)
- Discontinue recommending snake bite kits on MT AFLOAT MAP (1)

Fishing

- Implement catch-and-release fishing only (3)
- Require barbless hooks (1)
- Prohibit fishing during high water temperatures (1)
- Reduce amount of irrigation (1)

Boat Camps and Facilities

- Provide more detailed maps [GPS camps, show upper, middle & lower Sites] (2)
- Provide potable water at Camp Baker (1)
- Provide picnic tables at boat camps (1)
- Utilize LAC inventories to track boat camp impacts (1)
- Utilize volunteers for boat camp maintenance and weed control (3)
- Harden steep and erosive boat camp trails (1)
- Build steps at Upper Table Rock boat camp landing (1)
- Trim brush along shore adjacent to Given's Gulch rapids – to ease lining of boats around rapids (1)
- Cut and split felled trees for firewood (1)
- Add numbers to boat camp signs (1)
- Re-hang Parker Flat boat camp sign (1)
- Post Poison Ivy signs (1)
- Designate hiking trails (1)
- Combine Upper & Lower Black Butte boat camp into one camp (1)
- Provide a changing room at take-out (1)
- Continue to provide pit latrines (9)
- Removing latrines will encourage improper disposal of human waste (2)
- Hire additional employees to dig latrines (2)
- Charge additional waste disposal fee to continue use of pit latrines (1)
- Provide overlapping seat covers on latrine toilets to keep dry & frost-free (1)
- Brush latrine trails (1)
- Require floaters to pack out human waste (3)
- Retain latrine areas for privacy if FWP mandates human waste pack-out (1)
- Ranger talk with all groups at once should be discontinued – each group launching at same time becomes too congested (1)
- Allow layovers in the upper and lower river sections during the shoulder seasons (1)
- Move take-out upriver 5 miles (1)
- Use aluminum can money for special projects (1)
- Pursue the purchase of property in corridor (1)

Safety

- Build a safer trail to the pictograph cave (1)
- Habituated bear at Trout Creek boat camp may become a problem (1)

Noxious Weeds

- Add information on actions the public can take (1)
- Need better weed control (4)
- Ask floaters to pull weeds (1)

Landowner Day Floats

There are approximately 111 private landowners along the Smith River Corridor between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. Many of these landowners own small parcels (i.e. cabins or cabin sites) at the Two Creeks (mile 18.5) and Castle Bar (mile 22)

subdivisions. The Smith River Special Use Area Rule provides floating opportunities for bona fide Smith River landowners to float the river with immediate family members for day floats with few restrictions. Five landowner groups involving 19 people used this landowner floating privilege during the 2007 float season.

Landowner Non-Immediate Family Day Floats

In 1998, the Smith River Special Use Area Rule was modified to allow bona fide Smith River landowners to float the river with non-immediate family for day floats. Thirteen landowner groups involving 73 people used this landowner floating privilege during the 2007 season.

Fee-Waived Floats

The Smith River Special Use Area Rule allows fee-waived floats under certain special criteria. One fee-waived float took place during the 2007 float season.

Private Floats

During the 2007 float season, a total of 507 private groups floated the Smith River, involving a total of 3,567 individual public floaters. The 15-year average of private use is 525 groups with 3,165 people.

Commercially Outfitted Floats

During the 2007 float season, a total of 47 outfitted groups floated the Smith River, involving 617 floaters (includes both clients and guides). The 15-year average of outfitted use is 49 groups per year with 567 people. The 9 recognized licensed outfitters are allocated a total of 73 commercial launches. All outfitter launches not used by the outfitters were made available to the public for use.

The following licensed outfitters operated on the Smith River in 2007:

- Big Sky Expeditions (Helena, MT)
- Blackfoot River Outfitters (Missoula, MT)
- Blast & Cast Outfitters (Ennis, MT)
- Glacier Wilderness Guides (West Glacier, MT)
- High Plains Drifter (Missoula, MT)
- Montana Fly Fishing Connection (Missoula, MT)
- Lewis & Clark Expeditions (Helena, MT)
- Paul Roos Outfitters (Helena, MT)
- Smith River Fly Fishing Expeditions (Ennis, MT) → sold business mid-season
- The Complete Fly Fisher (Wise River, MT)

Commercial Shuttle Services

Three commercial shuttle services provided vehicle shuttles between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge for Smith River floaters this float season. At present, these businesses are not required to obtain a commercial use permit from FWP.

Boat Camp Ownership and Administration

FWP and the USFS maintain 27 boat camps containing 52 individual campsites throughout the 59-mile river corridor between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. Some boat camps have only one campsite while others have as many as two or three campsites at each boat camp. For example, Rock Creek Boat Camp has only one campsite, whereas Indian Springs Boat Camp has an upper, middle and lower campsite. Boat camps typically include a marked landing area, cleared areas for tents and cooking, and a primitive pit latrine.

Since 1986, FWP has leased private land for boat camps throughout the Smith River Corridor. Most leases are located along the lower sections of the canyon where there is very little public land; currently 10 of the 52 individual campsites along the river are leased sites. FWP leases Syringa Boat Camp (mile 15.2) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Staigmiller (mile 44), Upper, Middle and Lower Ridgetop (mile 45), Upper, Middle and Lower Givens Gulch (mile 47.2) and Upper and Lower Rattlesnake campsites (mile 47.4) are all leased from private landowners.

Leasing private lands for boat campsites has provided significant opportunities for the floating public, while compensating private landowners for the use of their land. Of the remaining 42 campsites, 14 sites are on FWP property and 28 are on USFS property.

Boat Camp Overnight Use

A user night is defined as “the number of nights one individual spends in the river corridor.” For example, one person spending 4 nights on the river equates to 4 user nights. A total of 14,683 user nights were recorded on the Smith River in 2007. Most of these user nights were spent in the 27 boat camps, while a handful of floaters spent the night in private cabins.

The table on page 25 summarizes 2007 Boat Camp Overnight Use. The data was derived from floater registration data collected at Camp Baker. The table shows the total number of groups that stayed at each site during the 2007 season and the ownership of each site.

2007 BOAT CAMP GROUP USE

BOAT CAMP	RIVER MILE	LAND OWNERSHIP	NUMBER OF GROUPS STAYED AT EACH BOATCAMP	% OF OVERALL USE
UPPER SPRING CREEK	4.4	FWP	9	0.48%
LOWER SPRING CREEK	4.4	FWP	0	0.00%
IN LIEU	5.6	FWP	2	0.11%
UPPER INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	2	0.11%
MIDDLE INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	49	2.59%
LOWER INDIAN SPRINGS	6	HLNF	33	1.75%
UPPER ROCK GARDEN	6.8	HLNF	46	2.43%
LOWER ROCK GARDEN	6.8	HLNF	13	0.69%
ROCK CREEK	8.9	HLNF	76	4.02%
UPPER SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	50	2.65%
MIDDLE SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	32	1.69%
LOWER SCOTTY ALLEN	12	HLNF	69	3.65%
SYRINGA	15.2	DNRC	74	3.92%
CANYON DEPTH	16.9	LCNF	73	3.86%
TWO CREEK	17.8	LCNF	26	1.38%
SHEEPWAGON	18.4	LCNF	44	2.33%
UPPER COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	51	2.70%
MIDDLE COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	40	2.12%
LOWER COW COULEE	22.8	LCNF	11	0.58%
UPPER SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	32	1.69%
MIDDLE SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	54	2.86%
LOWER SUNSET CLIFF	23.6	LCNF	60	3.17%
COUNTY LINE	25.5	LCNF	13	0.69%
UPPER BEAR GULCH	29	LCNF	16	0.85%
LOWER BEAR GULCH	29	LCNF	16	0.85%
UPPER TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	31	1.64%
MIDDLE TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	43	2.28%
LOWER TROUT CREEK	30.3	FWP	33	1.75%
CROWSFOOT	32	FWP	65	3.44%
UPPER TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	52	2.75%
MIDDLE TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	27	1.43%
LOWER TABLE ROCK	33.5	LCNF	13	0.69%
UPPER FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	61	3.23%
MIDDLE FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	7	0.37%
LOWER FRAUNHOFER	35.4	LCNF	25	1.32%
UPPER PARKER FLAT	37.5	LCNF	50	2.65%
PARKER FLAT #1	37.9	FWP	20	1.06%
PARKER FLAT #2	37.9	FWP	9	0.48%
PARKER FLAT #3	37.9	FWP	19	1.01%
PARADISE BEND	39.5	FWP	43	2.28%
STAIGMILLER	44	PRIVATE	17	0.90%
MERGANSE BEND	44.5	FWP	16	0.85%
UPPER BLACK BUTTE	44.8	FWP	24	1.27%
LOWER BLACK BUTTE	44.8	FWP	23	1.22%
UPPER RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	59	3.12%
MIDDLE RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	17	0.90%
LOWER RIDGETOP	45	PRIVATE	54	2.86%
UPPER GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	53	2.80%
MIDDLE GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	43	2.28%
LOWER GIVENS GULCH	47.2	PRIVATE	69	3.65%
UPPER RATTLESNAKE	47.4	PRIVATE	71	3.76%
LOWER RATTLESNAKE	47.4	PRIVATE	55	2.91%
TOTALS			1890	100.00%

BOATCAMP LAND DISTRIBUTION		
# OF SITES	SITES OWNED BY	% OF TOTAL SITES
14	FWP	27%
1	DNRC	2%
9	PRIVATE	17%
28	USFS	54%
52		100%

2007 SMITH RIVER USE STATISTICS BREAKDOWN BY MONTH												
MONTH	APRIL	APRIL BEARDOWN ON TOTAL % OF APRIL USE	APRIL % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	MAY	MAY BEARDOWN ON TOTAL % OF MAY USE	MAY % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	JUNE	JUNE BEARDOWN ON TOTAL % OF JUNE USE	JUNE % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	JULY	JULY BEARDOWN ON TOTAL % OF JULY USE	JULY % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	468	97.10%	13.12%	1488	88.41%	41.72%	1559	77.41%	43.71%	41	29.50%	1.15%
# OF FLOATERS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	171	10.16%	27.71%	388	19.27%	62.88%	58	41.73%	9.40%
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	14	2.90%	36.84%	4	0.24%	10.53%	20	0.99%	52.63%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	15	0.89%	100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.12%	10.53%	9	0.45%	47.37%	8	5.76%	42.11%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	0.18%	4.11%	38	1.89%	52.05%	32	23.02%	43.84%
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	482	100.00%	11.13%	1683	100.00%	38.88%	2014	100.00%	46.52%	139	100.00%	3.21%
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	89	97.80%	17.55%	216	91.53%	42.60%	189	81.47%	37.28%	9	39.13%	1.78%
# OF GROUPS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	13	5.51%	27.66%	29	12.50%	61.70%	5	21.74%	10.64%
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	2	2.20%	15.38%	4	1.69%	30.77%	7	3.02%	53.85%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.42%	100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.42%	20.00%	2	0.86%	40.00%	2	8.70%	40.00%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.42%	7.69%	5	2.16%	38.46%	7	30.43%	53.85%
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	91	100.00%	15.53%	236	100.00%	40.27%	232	100.00%	39.59%	23	100.00%	3.92%
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	1789	97.12%	11.53%	6192	88.42%	39.90%	7087	77.33%	45.67%	397	45.48%	2.56%
USER DAYS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	717	10.24%	23.28%	1927	21.03%	62.56%	436	49.94%	14.16%
USER DAYS - ADMIN	53	2.88%	30.99%	14	0.20%	8.19%	104	1.13%	60.82%	0	0.00%	0.00%
USER DAYS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	75	1.07%	100.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.03%	10.53%	9	0.10%	47.37%	8	0.92%	42.11%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	0.04%	4.11%	38	0.41%	52.05%	32	3.67%	43.84%
USER DAYS - TOTAL	1842	100.00%	9.73%	7003	100.00%	36.98%	9165	100.00%	48.40%	873	100.00%	4.61%
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	1403	97.23%	0.01%	4835	87.07%	0.01%	5351	75.77%	0.01%	308	52.74%	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	647	11.65%	0.00%	1628	23.05%	0.01%	276	47.26%	0.02%
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	40	2.77%	0.02%	11	0.20%	0.00%	83	1.18%	0.01%	0	0.00%	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	60	1.08%	0.02%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	1443	100.00%	0.03%	5553	100.00%	0.01%	7062	100.00%	0.01%	584	100.00%	0.01%
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	3.82			4.16			4.55			9.68		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - OUTFITTED	0.00			4.19			4.97			7.52		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	3.79			3.50			5.20			0.00		
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	2.54			3.95			4.90			5.73		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	5.26			6.89			8.25			4.56		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - OUTFITTED	0.00			13.15			13.38			11.60		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	7.00			1.00			2.86			0.00		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	0.00			15.00			0.00			0.00		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	0.00			2.00			4.50			4.00		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMIL	0.00			3.00			7.60			4.57		
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	5.30			7.13			8.68			6.04		
# OF RAFTS	198	82.50%	9.69%	585	74.43%	28.62%	711	76.12%	34.78%	49	66.22%	2.40%
# OF CANOES	31	12.92%	1.52%	74	9.41%	3.62%	84	8.99%	4.11%	13	17.57%	0.64%
# OF DRIFT BOATS	5	2.08%	0.24%	79	10.05%	3.86%	44	4.71%	2.15%	0	0.00%	0.00%
# OF KAYAK	6	2.50%	0.29%	48	6.11%	2.35%	95	10.17%	4.65%	12	16.22%	0.59%
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	240	100.00%	11.74%	786	100.00%	38.45%	934	100.00%	45.69%	74	100.00%	3.62%
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	232	96.67%	11.35%	707	89.95%	34.59%	708	75.80%	34.64%	28	37.84%	1.37%
TOTAL OUTFITTED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	65	8.27%	3.18%	175	18.74%	8.56%	27	36.49%	1.32%
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	8	3.33%	0.39%	4	0.51%	0.20%	12	1.28%	0.59%	0	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	6	0.76%	0.29%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.13%	0.05%	14	1.50%	0.68%	3	4.05%	0.15%
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	0.38%	0.15%	25	2.68%	1.22%	16	21.62%	0.78%
TOTAL CRAFT	240	100.00%	11.74%	786	100.00%	38.45%	934	100.00%	45.69%	74	100.00%	3.62%
AVG # OF CRAFT - PRIVATE GROUP	2.61			3.27			3.75			3.11		
AVG # OF CRAFT - OUTFITTED GROUP	0.00			5.00			6.03			5.40		
AVG # OF CRAFT - ADMIN GROUP	4.00			1.00			1.71			0.00		
AVG # OF CRAFT - WAIVED	0.00			6.00			0.00			0.00		
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER	0.00			1.00			7.00			1.50		
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0.00			3.00			5.00			2.29		
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	2.64			3.33			4.03			3.22		

2007 SMITH RIVER USE STATISTICS BREAKDOWN BY MONTH										YEAR	
MONTH	AUG	AUG BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF AUG USE	AUG % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	SEPT	SEPT BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF SEPT USE	SEPT % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	OCT	OCT BEAKDOWN ON TOTAL % OF OCT USE	OCT % OF OVERALL TOTAL SEASON USE	TOTAL	TOTAL PERCENT
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	0	0.00%	0.00%	6	100.00%	0.17%	5	100.00%	0.14%	3567	82.40%
# OF FLOATERS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	617	14.25%
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	38	0.88%
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	15	0.35%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	19	0.44%
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	73	1.69%
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	0	0.00%	0.00%	6	100.00%	0.14%	5	100.00%	0.12%	4329	100.00%
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	100.00%	0.59%	1	100.00%	0.20%	507	86.52%
# OF GROUPS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	47	8.02%
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	13	2.22%
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.17%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	5	0.85%
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	13	2.22%
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	100.00%	0.51%	1	100.00%	0.17%	586	100.00%
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	0	0.00%	0.00%	23	100.00%	0.15%	29	100.00%	0.19%	15517	81.95%
USER DAYS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	3080	16.27%
USER DAYS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	171	0.90%
USER DAYS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	75	0.40%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	19	0.10%
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	73	0.39%
USER DAYS - TOTAL	0	0.00%	0.00%	23	100.00%	0.12%	29	100.00%	0.15%	18935	100.00%
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	0	0.00%	0.00%	19	100.00%	0.01%	22	100.00%	0.01%	11938	81.30%
USER NIGHTS - OUTFITTED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	2551	17.37%
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	134	0.91%
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	60	0.41%
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	0	0.00%	0.00%	19	100.00%	0.01%	22	100.00%	0.01%	14683	100.00%
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	0.00			3.83			5.80			4.35	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - OUTFITTED	0.00			0.00			0.00			4.99	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	0.00			0.00			0.00			4.50	
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	0.00			0.00			0.00			4.61	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	0.00			2.00			5.00			7.04	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - OUTFITTED	0.00			0.00			0.00			13.13	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	0.00			0.00			0.00			2.92	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			0.00			15.00	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			0.00			3.80	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0.00			0.00			0.00			5.62	
AVG # FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	0.00			2.00			5.00			7.39	
# OF RAFTS	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	40.00%	0.10%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1545	75.59%
# OF CANOES	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	60.00%	0.15%	4	80.00%	0.20%	209	10.23%
# OF DRIFT BOATS	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	128	6.26%
# OF KAYAK	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	20.00%	0.05%	162	7.93%
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	5	100.00%	0.24%	5	100.00%	0.24%	2044	100.00%
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	5	100.00%	0.24%	5	100.00%	0.24%	1685	82.44%
TOTAL OUTFITTED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	267	13.06%
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	24	1.17%
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	6	0.29%
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	18	0.88%
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	44	2.15%
TOTAL CRAFT	0	0.00%	0.00%	5	100.00%	0.24%	5	100.00%	0.24%	2044	100.00%
AVG # OF CRAFT - PRIVATE GROUP	0.00			1.67			5.00			3.32	
AVG # OF CRAFT - OUTFITTED GROUP	0.00			0.00			0.00			5.68	
AVG # OF CRAFT - ADMIN GROUP	0.00			0.00			0.00			1.85	
AVG # OF CRAFT - WAIVED	0.00			0.00			0.00			6.00	
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER	0.00			0.00			0.00			3.60	
AVG # OF CRAFT - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	0.00			0.00			0.00			3.38	
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	0.00			1.67			5.00			3.49	

SMITH RIVER TREND STATISTICS (1993-2007)

YEAR	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	AVERAGE
# OF FLOATERS-PRIVATE	3,172	2,689	3,534	3,757	4,149	3,507	3,396	1,878	1,678	2,798	3,065	3,187	3,197	3,894	3,567	3,165
# OF FLOATERS - GUIDED	432	459	520	652	622	621	669	602	505	626	452	517	573	638	617	567
# OF FLOATERS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55	49	32	59	85	48	37	51	38	50
# OF FLOATERS WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21	0	0	0	0	0	12	15	6
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	21	12	42	40	47	67	19	33
# OF FLOATERS LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	26	46	70	63	87	74	73	59
# OF FLOATERS - TOTAL	3,604	3,148	4,054	4,409	4,771	4,128	4,120	2,596	2,262	3,541	3,714	3,855	3,941	4,736	4,329	3,814
# OF GROUPS - PRIVATE	664	481	665	632	689	585	511	340	291	450	450	503	526	582	507	525
# OF GROUPS - GUIDED	49	45	54	57	54	53	56	49	42	48	37	46	48	52	47	49
# OF GROUPS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	13	13	20	18	16	12	13	13	15
# OF GROUPS-WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	4	3	11	12	14	16	5	9
# OF GROUPS-LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	5	9	12	10	18	10	13	10
# OF GROUPS - TOTAL	713	526	719	689	743	638	584	412	355	530	528	587	618	674	586	593
USER DAYS - PRIVATE	12,656	10,925	14,644	15,712	18,334	14,848	14,230	8,096	7,657	12,340	13,673	13,867	14,278	17,307	15,517	13,606
USER DAYS - GUIDED	1,940	2,325	2,561	3,274	3,080	3,026	3,418	2,984	2,490	3,129	2,205	2,429	2,860	3,168	3,080	2,798
USER DAYS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	238	228	127	195	377	215	157	222	171	214
USER DAYS - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	96	0	0	0	0	0	60	75	29
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	21	12	42	40	47	67	19	33
USER DAYS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	29	26	46	70	63	87	74	73	59
USER DAYS - TOTAL	14,596	13,250	17,205	18,986	21,414	17,874	17,886	11,450	10,321	15,722	16,367	16,614	17,429	20,898	18,935	16,596
USER NIGHTS - PRIVATE	9,540	8,365	10,015	11,749	14,036	11,088	10,968	6,191	5,995	10,141	10,636	10,502	11,078	13,288	11,938	10,369
USER NIGHTS - GUIDED	1,504	1,866	1,991	2,576	2,299	2,358	2,715	2,328	1,960	2,256	1,777	1,796	2,432	2,393	2,551	2,187
USER NIGHTS - ADMIN	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	165	179	97	178	298	176	121	167	134	168
USER NIGHTS - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	63	0	0	0	0	0	48	60	21
USER NIGHTS - TOTAL	11,044	10,231	12,006	14,325	16,335	13,446	13,848	8,761	8,052	12,575	12,711	12,474	13,631	15,896	14,683	12,668
AVG DAYS/GROUP - PRIVATE	3.99	4.06	4.14	4.18	4.42	4.23	4.19	4.31	4.56	4.41	4.46	4.35	4.47	4.44	4.35	4.31
AVG DAYS/GROUP - GUIDED	4.49	5.07	4.93	5.02	4.95	4.87	5.11	4.96	4.93	5.00	4.88	4.70	4.99	4.97	4.99	4.92
AVG DAYS/GROUP - ADM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.33	4.65	3.97	3.31	4.44	4.48	4.24	4.35	4.50	4.25
AVG DAYS/GROUP - TOTAL	4.00	4.20	4.20	4.30	4.50	4.30	4.54	4.64	4.49	4.24	4.59	4.51	4.57	4.59	4.61	4.42
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - PRIVATE	4.78	5.59	5.31	5.94	6.02	5.99	6.65	5.52	5.77	6.22	6.81	6.34	6.08	6.69	7.04	6.05
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - GUIDED	8.82	10.20	9.63	11.44	11.52	11.72	11.95	12.29	12.02	13.04	12.22	11.24	11.94	12.27	13.13	11.56
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - ADM	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.24	3.77	2.46	2.95	4.72	3.00	3.08	3.92	2.92	3.34
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	15.00	4.69
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.67	5.25	4.00	3.82	3.33	3.36	4.19	3.80	4.18
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUPS - LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5.80	5.20	5.11	5.83	6.30	4.83	7.40	5.62	5.76
AVG #FLOATERS/GROUP - TOTAL	5.05	5.98	5.64	6.40	6.42	6.47	7.05	6.30	6.37	6.68	7.03	6.57	6.38	7.03	7.39	6.45

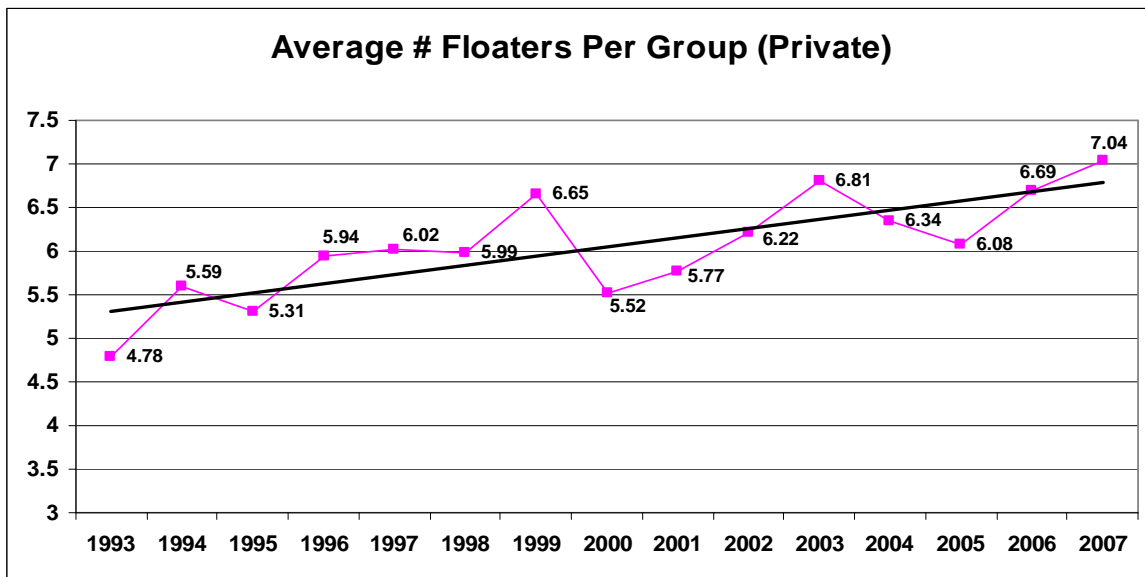
SMITH RIVER TREND STATISTICS CONTINUED (1993-2007)

YEAR	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	AVERAGE
# OF RAFTS	774	863	1114	1232	1409	1294	1294	882	759	1101	1245	1237	1311	1560	1545	1,175
# OF CANOES	438	353	415	362	433	379	344	224	244	378	276	284	235	259	209	322
# OF DRIFT BOATS	100	82	140	132	147	97	74	44	37	63	96	86	113	119	128	97
# OF KAYAKS	61	46	105	88	96	141	99	67	56	151	133	157	133	206	162	113
# OF OTHER TYPE CRAFT	12	30	24	49	60	8	13	14	24	55	23	56	44	90	NA	36
TOTAL NUMBER OF CRAFT	1385	1374	1798	1863	2145	1919	1824	1231	1120	1748	1773	1820	1836	2234	2044	1,719
TOTAL PRIVATE CRAFT	1156	1173	1548	1579	1845	1604	1490	906	837	1368	1452	1503	1494	1867	1685	1,434
TOTAL GUIDED CRAFT	187	171	208	256	278	265	308	269	241	293	209	218	253	240	267	244
TOTAL ADM CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	26	28	20	42	45	28	20	33	24	30
TOTAL WAIVED CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	2
TOTAL LANDOWNER CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	10	6	20	19	20	32	18	16
TOTAL LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY CRAFT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	12	39	47	52	49	59	44	39
AVG # OF CRAFT/PRIVATE GROUP	1.74	2.44	2.33	2.50	2.68	2.74	2.92	2.66	2.88	3.04	3.23	2.99	2.84	3.21	3.32	2.73
AVG # OF CRAFT/GUIDED GROUP	3.82	3.80	3.85	4.49	5.15	5.00	5.50	5.49	5.74	6.10	5.65	4.74	5.27	4.62	5.68	4.94
AVG # OF CRAFT/ADMIN GROUP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.53	2.15	1.54	2.10	2.50	1.75	1.67	2.54	1.85	1.97
AVG # OF CRAFT/WAIVED	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	6.00	1.07
AVG # OF CRAFT/LANDOWNER	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.00	2.50	2.00	1.82	1.58	1.43	2.00	3.60	1.90
AVG # OF CRAFT/LANDOWNER NON IMMEDIATE FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.60	2.40	4.33	3.92	5.20	2.72	5.90	3.38	3.87
AVG # OF CRAFT/GROUP - TOTAL	1.94	2.61	2.50	2.70	2.89	3.01	3.12	2.99	3.15	3.30	3.36	3.10	2.97	3.31	3.49	2.93
OUTFITTED % OF TOTAL GROUPS	6.87%	8.56%	7.51%	8.27%	7.27%	8.31%	9.59%	11.89%	11.83%	9.06%	7.01%	7.84%	7.77%	7.72%	8.02%	8.53%
OUTFITTED % OF TOTAL FLOATERS	11.99%	14.58%	12.83%	14.79%	13.04%	15.04%	16.24%	23.19%	22.33%	17.68%	12.17%	13.41%	14.54%	13.47%	14.25%	15.38%
HIGH WATER FLOW LEVEL IN CFS	555	656	454	676	3760	1480	564	533	447	1080	938	1650	1650	1290	853	1,106
LOW WATER FLOW LEVEL IN CFS	102	53	64	64	226	115	75	29	34	63	43	79	100	60	43	77

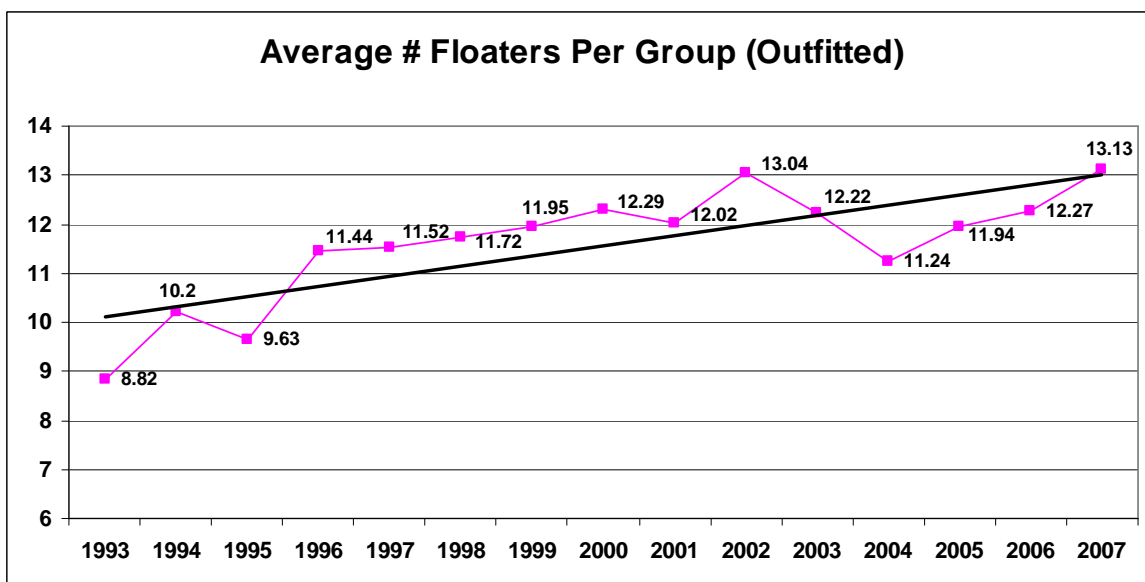
Visitor Use Trends – Average Group Size

The average group size for both private and outfitted floats has been steadily increasing. As the demand to float the Smith River has increased (graph 3, page 11), the number of individuals floating with a successful permit holder or an outfitter has also increased.

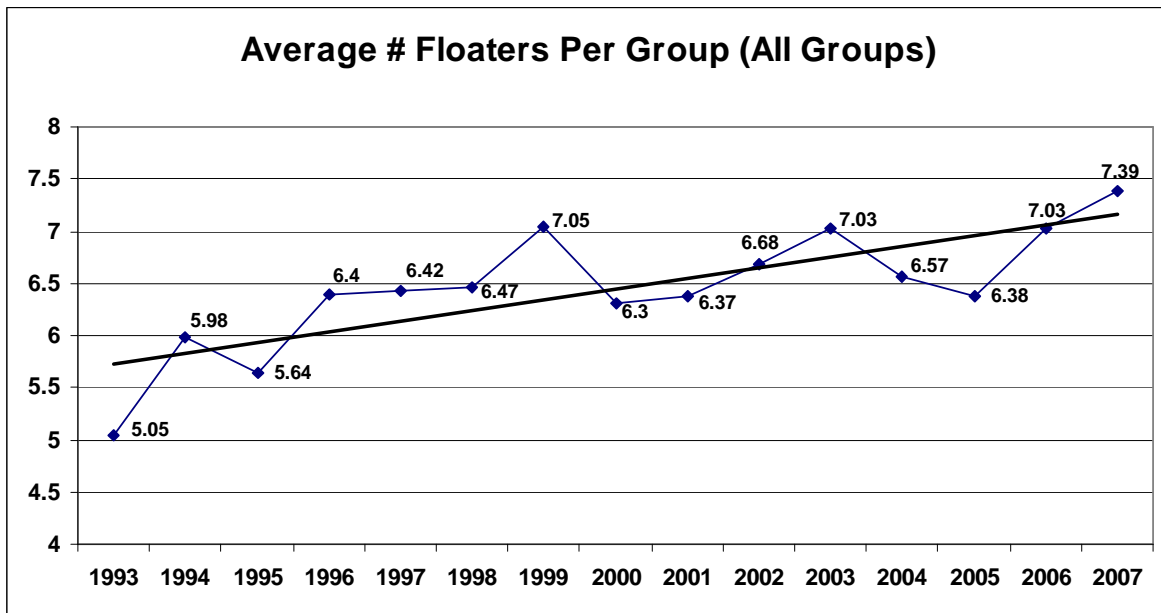
Graph 15 illustrates the trend of increasing group size for private groups. Graph 16 illustrates the trend of increasing group size for outfitted groups. Graph 17 illustrates the overall increase in average group size, combining private and outfitted groups, as well as landowner and administrative groups. The straight black line on each graph is the trend line. The steeper the slope of the trend line, the greater the yearly increases over time.



GRAPH 15: AVERAGE GROUP SIZE PER YEAR – PRIVATE GROUPS



GRAPH 16: AVERAGE GROUP SIZE PER YEAR – OUTFITTED GROUPS



GRAPH 17: AVERAGE GROUP SIZE PER YEAR – ALL GROUPS COMBINED

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2007)				
2007	CFS DAILY MEAN	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
1-Apr	210	0	0	0.00
2-Apr	207	0	0	0.00
3-Apr	182	1	1	1.00
4-Apr	188	2	3	1.50
5-Apr	197	5	24	4.80
6-Apr	187	6	33	5.50
7-Apr	178	6	33	5.50
8-Apr	170	7	35	5.00
9-Apr	190	3	9	3.00
10-Apr	184	3	8	2.67
11-Apr	176	3	8	2.67
12-Apr	166	5	13	2.60
13-Apr	168	7	23	3.29
14-Apr	180	9	33	3.67
15-Apr	187	8	31	3.88
16-Apr	193	11	47	4.27
17-Apr	215	13	58	4.46
18-Apr	251	13	66	5.08
19-Apr	266	14	71	5.07
20-Apr	257	17	98	5.76
21-Apr	262	17	99	5.82
22-Apr	264	18	104	5.78
23-Apr	262	22	106	4.82
24-Apr	275	22	108	4.91
25-Apr	310	24	119	4.96
26-Apr	357	26	133	5.12
27-Apr	364	23	142	6.17
28-Apr	385	21	148	7.05
29-Apr	488	23	140	6.09
30-Apr	583	25	149	5.96
1-May	630	24	125	5.21
2-May	682	23	118	5.13
3-May	774	26	141	5.42
4-May	707	28	165	5.89
5-May	604	26	158	6.08
6-May	526	27	173	6.41
7-May	473	25	156	6.24
8-May	450	22	144	6.55
9-May	447	23	152	6.61
10-May	473	29	197	6.79
11-May	526	30	189	6.30
12-May	508	33	237	7.18
13-May	532	35	242	6.91
14-May	538	35	241	6.89

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2007)				
2007	CFS DAILY MEAN	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
15-May	481	36	262	7.28
16-May	436	34	233	6.85
17-May	391	40	300	7.50
18-May	365	41	300	7.32
19-May	363	40	294	7.35
20-May	358	39	296	7.59
21-May	424	33	239	7.24
22-May	456	35	256	7.31
23-May	464	34	248	7.29
24-May	425	34	234	6.88
25-May	498	35	274	7.83
26-May	533	37	301	8.14
27-May	539	38	299	7.87
28-May	666	33	265	8.03
29-May	719	31	232	7.48
30-May	806	32	231	7.22
31-May	722	37	301	8.14
1-Jun	634	38	322	8.47
2-Jun	558	36	302	8.39
3-Jun	491	33	294	8.91
4-Jun	452	31	251	8.10
5-Jun	399	33	282	8.55
6-Jun	435	34	289	8.50
7-Jun	595	36	316	8.78
8-Jun	517	37	355	9.59
9-Jun	445	38	337	8.87
10-Jun	410	37	329	8.89
11-Jun	387	34	320	9.41
12-Jun	359	32	290	9.06
13-Jun	330	35	332	9.49
14-Jun	323	38	392	10.32
15-Jun	310	39	379	9.72
16-Jun	294	39	367	9.41
17-Jun	337	39	376	9.64
18-Jun	301	35	333	9.51
19-Jun	281	34	293	8.62
20-Jun	255	32	280	8.75
21-Jun	230	33	286	8.67
22-Jun	220	37	302	8.16
23-Jun	205	37	280	7.57
24-Jun	195	36	291	8.08
25-Jun	186	31	250	8.06
26-Jun	178	35	282	8.06
27-Jun	172	32	283	8.84

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2007)				
2007	CFS DAILY MEAN	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
28-Jun	159	30	270	9.00
29-Jun	143	29	267	9.21
30-Jun	143	24	215	8.96
1-Jul	147	20	185	9.25
2-Jul	140	16	148	9.25
3-Jul	129	11	110	10.00
4-Jul	121	11	92	8.36
5-Jul	119	10	79	7.90
6-Jul	119	8	62	7.75
7-Jul	117	8	57	7.13
8-Jul	118	9	63	7.00
9-Jul	108	4	18	4.50
10-Jul	104	3	15	5.00
11-Jul	99	2	8	4.00
12-Jul	94	2	8	4.00
13-Jul	89	2	7	3.50
14-Jul	87	1	4	4.00
15-Jul	89	1	4	4.00
16-Jul	91	1	8	8.00
17-Jul	90	0	0	0.00
18-Jul	95	0	0	0.00
19-Jul	89	1	5	5.00
20-Jul	80	0	0	0.00
21-Jul	72	0	0	0.00
22-Jul	68	0	0	0.00
23-Jul	68	0	0	0.00
24-Jul	65	0	0	0.00
25-Jul	71	0	0	0.00
26-Jul	76	0	0	0.00
27-Jul	76	0	0	0.00
28-Jul	70	0	0	0.00
29-Jul	65	0	0	0.00
30-Jul	62	0	0	0.00
31-Jul	58	0	0	0.00
1-Aug	59	0	0	0.00
2-Aug	63	0	0	0.00
3-Aug	63	0	0	0.00
4-Aug	63	0	0	0.00
5-Aug	61	0	0	0.00
6-Aug	76	0	0	0.00
7-Aug	73	0	0	0.00
8-Aug	72	0	0	0.00
9-Aug	69	0	0	0.00
10-Aug	73	0	0	0.00

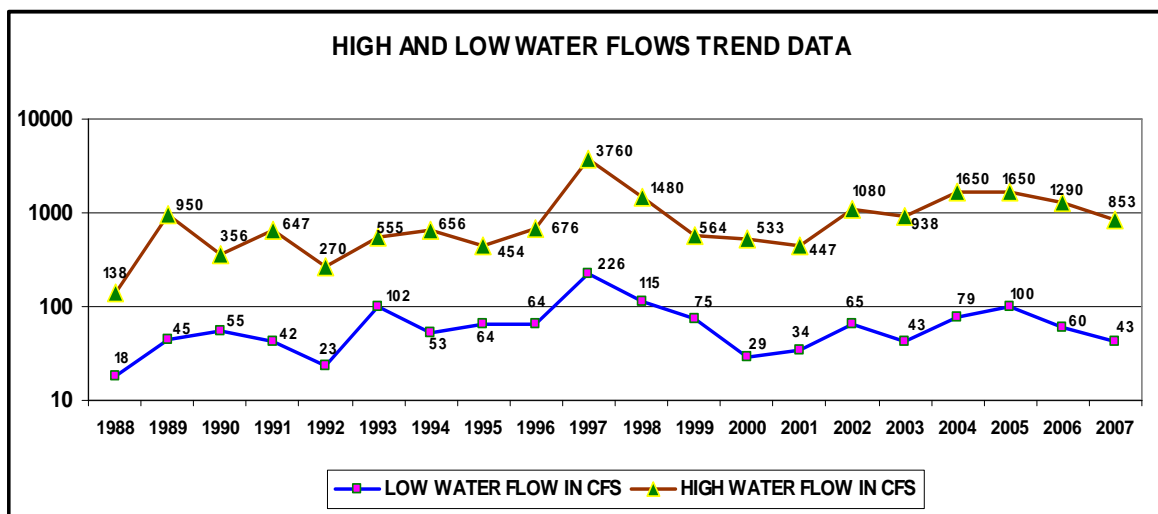
SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2007)				
2007	CFS DAILY MEAN	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
11-Aug	74	0	0	0.00
12-Aug	70	0	0	0.00
13-Aug	65	0	0	0.00
14-Aug	60	0	0	0.00
15-Aug	61	0	0	0.00
16-Aug	57	0	0	0.00
17-Aug	55	0	0	0.00
18-Aug	55	0	0	0.00
19-Aug	56	0	0	0.00
20-Aug	57	0	0	0.00
21-Aug	57	0	0	0.00
22-Aug	54	0	0	0.00
23-Aug	54	0	0	0.00
24-Aug	55	0	0	0.00
25-Aug	51	0	0	0.00
26-Aug	49	0	0	0.00
27-Aug	47	0	0	0.00
28-Aug	47	0	0	0.00
29-Aug	47	0	0	0.00
30-Aug	44	0	0	0.00
31-Aug	43	0	0	0.00
1-Sep	45	0	0	0.00
2-Sep	47	0	0	0.00
3-Sep	46	0	0	0.00
4-Sep	44	0	0	0.00
5-Sep	48	0	0	0.00
6-Sep	51	0	0	0.00
7-Sep	53	0	0	0.00
8-Sep	57	0	0	0.00
9-Sep	62	0	0	0.00
10-Sep	64	0	0	0.00
11-Sep	63	0	0	0.00
12-Sep	58	0	0	0.00
13-Sep	58	0	0	0.00
14-Sep	57	1	1	1.00
15-Sep	57	1	1	1.00
16-Sep	58	1	1	1.00
17-Sep	62	1	1	1.00
18-Sep	60	1	1	1.00
19-Sep	65	1	1	1.00
20-Sep	74	0	0	0.00
21-Sep	77	0	0	0.00
22-Sep	74	1	3	3.00
23-Sep	97	1	3	3.00
24-Sep	103	1	3	3.00

SMITH RIVER DAILY LOG (2007)				
2007	CFS DAILY MEAN	TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE RIVER EACH DAY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER GROUP ON THE RIVER EACH DAY
25-Sep	89	1	3	3.00
26-Sep	84	1	3	3.00
27-Sep	82	0	0	0.00
28-Sep	81	0	0	0.00
29-Sep	90	0	0	0.00
30-Sep	101	1	2	2.00
1-Oct	96	1	2	2.00
2-Oct	92	1	2	2.00
3-Oct	90	1	2	2.00
4-Oct	91	1	2	2.00
5-Oct	106	1	2	2.00
6-Oct	113	1	2	2.00
7-Oct	108	1	2	2.00
8-Oct	104	1	5	5.00
9-Oct	104	1	5	5.00
10-Oct	101	1	5	5.00
11-Oct	98	0	0	0.00
12-Oct	99	0	0	0.00
13-Oct	99	0	0	0.00
14-Oct	100	0	0	0.00
15-Oct	100	0	0	0.00
16-Oct	100	0	0	0.00
17-Oct	110	0	0	0.00
18-Oct	111	0	0	0.00
19-Oct	106	0	0	0.00
20-Oct	104	0	0	0.00
21-Oct	103	0	0	0.00
22-Oct	101	0	0	0.00
23-Oct	102	0	0	0.00
24-Oct	102	0	0	0.00
25-Oct	102	0	0	0.00
26-Oct	109	0	0	0.00
27-Oct	105	0	0	0.00
28-Oct	108	0	0	0.00
29-Oct	112	0	0	0.00
30-Oct	113	0	0	0.00
31-Oct	101	0	0	0.00

SECTION 6 – RESOURCE AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

River Flows

The Smith River flows rely heavily on mountain snow pack and rainfall for seasonal floating opportunities. The stream flows are measured in cubic feet per second (cfs) at a USGS stream-measuring gauge approximately two miles below Camp Baker. FWP recommends at least 150 cfs for canoes/kayaks, 250 cfs for rafts and 350 cfs for drift boats and large catarafts. Most of the floating that occurred in 2007 began in mid-April and ended in early July. The lowest measured stream flow for the 2007 season was 43 cfs, (August 31), while the peak stream flow was 853 cfs (May 30).



GRAPH 18: HISTORICAL RIVER FLOW TRENDS

The Smith River USGS gauge may be found on the internet at:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mt/nwis/uv?06077200>



SMITH RIVER JUST ABOVE EDEN BRIDGE – LATE SUMMER 2007

Resource Impacts

Physical resource impacts along the Smith River corridor can impair the ecological integrity of the area as well as the visitor experience. The following physical resource impacts are of particular concern:

- Loss of vegetative cover (bare ground)
- Erosion
- Tree root exposure
- Campfire impacts
- Improper disposal of human waste
- Green tree cutting and damage
- Habituated or food-conditioned wildlife
- Littering
- Dogs off leash (waste, harassing wildlife, etc.)



MEASURING RESOURCE IMPACTS IN BOAT CAMP

Noxious Weed Control

FWP and the USFS work cooperatively to control noxious weeds within the Smith River Corridor. Leafy spurge is the most common noxious weed along the river corridor. Smith River weed control activities continued in 2007 with an emphasis on the established educational and chemical spraying programs. Bio-control (flea beetles) was not conducted in 2007. Educational weed information was posted on the "Information

Board” adjacent to the floater registration kiosk. Smith River weed control activities and education continued to be included in the river ranger’s pre-launch talks.

Late summer of 2005, FWP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meagher and Cascade County Weed Districts, USDA Forest Service and the Smith River Habitat Project Inc. for cooperative management of noxious weeds throughout the Smith River Corridor.

In 2007, as in years past, weed control activities included a USFS crew conducting a five-day float to spray for leafy spurge and other noxious weeds during late June. The goal for chemical spraying along the river is to keep the leafy spurge controlled and from spreading up the mountainsides and leaving the rim of the canyon.

Controlling noxious weeds along the Smith River Corridor is very difficult due to access. The only practical way to reach most areas of publicly owned land for spraying or bio-release is to float. It takes at least 4-5 days to float the river and treat weeds along the way. Each trip is very costly and requires considerable coordination and staffing efforts to complete. Approximately 80% of the property along the river is privately owned with the other 20% being public. Leafy spurge is very difficult to control along a water route, especially when there are 111 different private and public landowners with riverfront property.

Management Plan Use Indicators

The current management plan for the Smith River program was developed in 1995 and adopted in 1996. The plan defines three management indicators, with standards to address social impacts to aid in gauging the quality of the river experience for the recreation user.

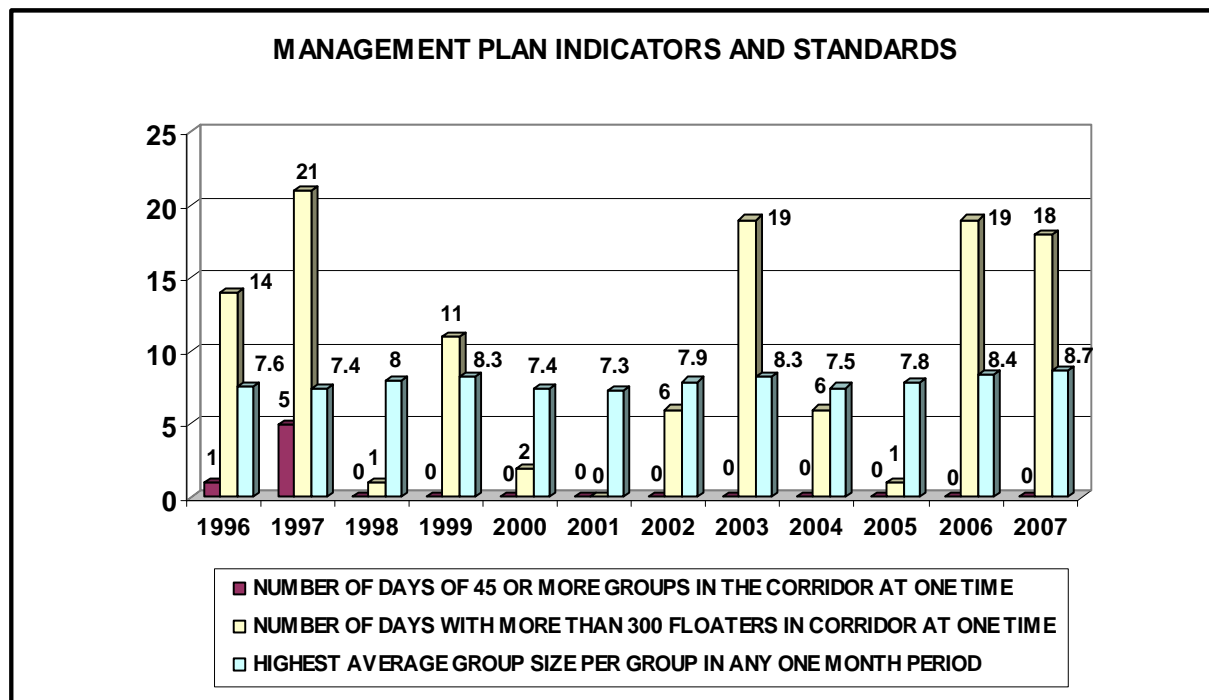
- #1 – The indicator is the ***number of groups in the canyon at one time*** and the standard is to have no more than three days per float season with 45 or more groups in the canyon at one time.
- #2 – The indicator is the ***number of floaters in the canyon at one time*** and the standard is no more than six days with more than 300 floaters in the canyon at one time.
- #3 – The indicator is ***average group size*** and the standard is to have no higher average than eight persons per group per month period.

In 2007, the standards for two of the three indicators were exceeded, or out of compliance (graph 19, page 40). There were 18 days during which there were 300 or more floaters in the canyon at a given time (standard is no more than 6 days over 300). In addition, the average group size during the month of June was 8.7 (standard is no higher average than 8 during a given month). The standard for the number of groups in the canyon at one time was in compliance, with zero days with 45 or more groups in the canyon at a given time.

The 1996 Smith River Management Plan mandates that when a standard for the indicators is out of compliance, FWP will study the levels and patterns of the river's use further and prepare a recommended action to the FWP Commission. This recommended action may include reducing the number of launches per day or the maximum group size. Any recommended change would likely affect the number and group size for both private and outfitted groups, while recognizing the historic percentages between these two types of users. The goal has been to return the floater use numbers back within the current standards and indicators.

In 1998, the cancellation procedure was modified due to management plan standards and indicators having been exceeded, requiring FWP to make modifications to the permit system procedures. As a result, the change adopted by the FWP Commission was to not refill the first five canceled permits (private or commercial) each week between June 10th and July 10th. This time period reflected the most popular period to float and the period when the management plan indicators were being exceeded. Outside the high-use period of June 10th to July 10th, the cancellation policy remained the same, allowing all canceled permits to be refilled.

In 2003, to help keep overall use numbers within the management plan standards, the maximum group size was limited to 8 people per group for permits that were canceled and reissued from May 25th - July 10th.



GRAPH 19: MANAGEMENT PLAN INDICATORS & STANDARDS (1996-2007 TRENDS)

Compliance

FWP staff has the authority to enforce recreational use and resource protection regulations throughout the Smith River Corridor.

River Rangers typically take an 'educational approach' to minor violations, seeking the lowest level of enforcement action necessary to gain compliance with established rules and regulations on the river. However, River Rangers have the authority and discretion to issue citations when necessary and appropriate. Enforcement actions range from verbal warnings to written warnings to Notice To Appear (NTA) in Court.

Incident Summary

The following incidents of significance, both law enforcement and non-law enforcement in nature, were documented during the 2007 season:

Incidents investigated and reported by FWP staff

- **Disorderly Conduct – Quiet Hours:** Notice To Appear (NTA) issued to permit holder whose group violated the quiet hours regulation at Camp Baker.
- **Disorderly Conduct – Property Disturbance:** Fake surveillance camera discovered mounted to a tree overlooking latrine at Lower Rattlesnake boat camp.
- **Vandalism:** "Do Not Throw Trash in Toilet" sign discovered torn off the wall of vault toilet at Camp Baker.
- **Theft:** Several bags of aluminum cans stolen from Eden Bridge.
- **Theft:** Steel fire ring stolen from Camp Baker.
- **Medical – Evacuation:** Medical evacuation of FWP River Ranger from river patrol due to an intestinal virus.
- **Medical – Evacuation:** Medical evacuation of adult male experiencing muscle spasms in back. River Ranger provided first responder assessment and secured permission to extract patient on private property.
- **Medical – Evacuation:** Medical evacuation of adult male experiencing abdominal pain. FWP staff provided logistical assistance to EMS personnel to access and transport patient from private property.
- **Medical – First Aid:** Adult male embedded fishing hook into finger. River Ranger provided first responder assistance and removed the hook.
- **Medical – Visitor Injury:** Adult male fell while climbing/hiking sustaining bruises and scratches.
- **Property Damage – Ice Jam:** 6 boat camp signs, 12 sign posts, 22 tie-off posts and 1 fire ring damaged due to spring ice flow.

- **Property Damage – Weather Event:** Heavy, wet snow during a spring snow storm broke several tree limbs at Eden Bridge. The regulations sign was damaged by a falling limb.
- **Water Safety:** Commercial guide cited for failure to wear and insufficient number of PFD's (life jackets). Failure to wear due to Type V PFD used.
- **Wildlife Encounter:** Food-conditioned black bear legally dispatched by private landowner on private property.
- **Weather Event:** Micro-burst windstorm occurred at Camp Baker damaging tents and other equipment.



ICE JAM DAMAGE AT UPPER SPRING CREEK BOAT CAMP

Incidents verbally reported to FWP or recorded by floaters onto Floater Logs:

- **Firearms – Unlawful Discharge:** Reports of discharging a firearm within a designated boat camp. Reported occurrence at Upper Ridgetop and Fraunhofer boat camps.
- **Littering:** Numerous recordings of litter found within boat camps and fire rings.
- **Medical – Assistance:** Private group assisted another group with two floaters who were showing signs and symptoms of hypothermia.
- **Property Disturbance – Tree Cutting:** Report of cutting down a standing tree in Upper Ridgetop boat camp. Report of cutting branches off a standing tree at Middle Ridgetop boat camp.
- **Other Reported Incidents:** Other incidents reported onto floater logs included; improper disposal of waste (dog and human), dogs off leash, unlawful fires (outside designated ring and/or moving fire ring), boat tags unfastened, PFD (life jacket) and fishing violations.

Parks Patrol Log Cards

Parks Patrol Log Cards are pocket-sized cards carried by Region 4 parks personnel to document resource and social impacts and to record specific types of visitor contacts. The impacts and contacts recorded are used for situations that do not warrant the use of the more serious and formal Incident Report Form.

Patrol Log Summary

40 Patrol Log Cards were completed in 2007. The type of impact and visitor contact is listed, with the frequency of each in parenthesis.

Resource and Social Impacts

- Littering (4)
- Refuse in Fire Grate (20)
- Campfire Rings or Impacts (3)
- Pets Off Leash (5)
- Pet Waste (1)
- Vegetation Damage (1)
- Tree Damage (3)
- Unattended Campfire – Not Dead Out (4)
- Property Disturbance – Fire Ring Moved (2)

Visitor Contacts

- Educational Contact – Dog Off Leash (2)
- Verbal Warning – Dog Off Leash (3)
- Courtesy Citation – Tree Damage (1)

References

The following reference materials and documents regarding the Smith River are on file at the Region 4 FWP Headquarters in Great Falls, Montana, and/or available on the FWP (Smith River State Park) website:

www.fwp.mt.gov/parks/recreation/smithriver/default.html

- Smith River Management Plan (January 1996)
- Smith River Special Use Area Rule (January 2007)
- Parks Biennial Fee Rule (January 2007)



LUNCH BREAK AT CANYON DEPTH BOAT CAMP

Great time! Great week! Great memories! Thanks!

QUOTE FROM GROUP #371 - 2007 FLOATER LOG